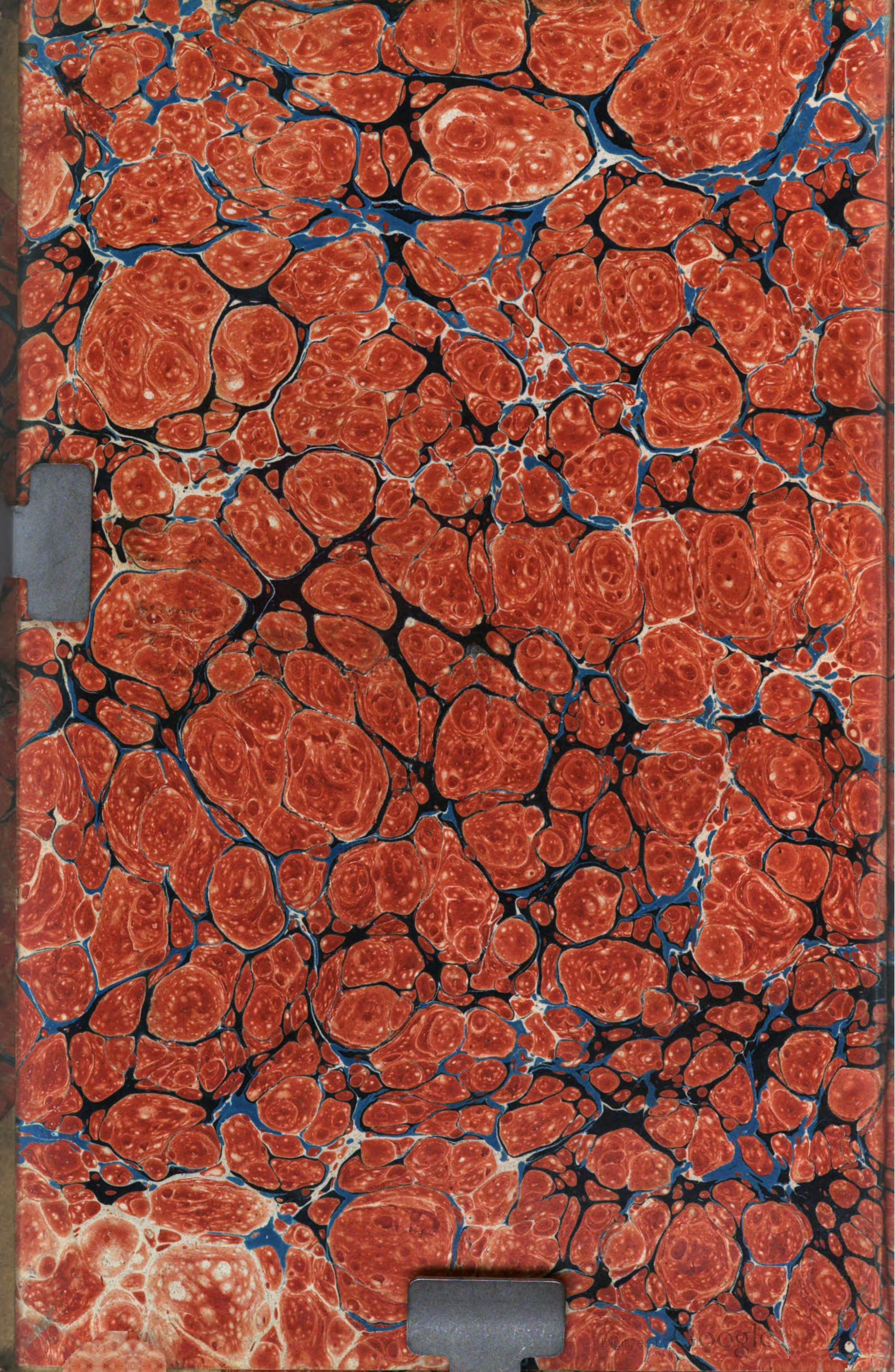

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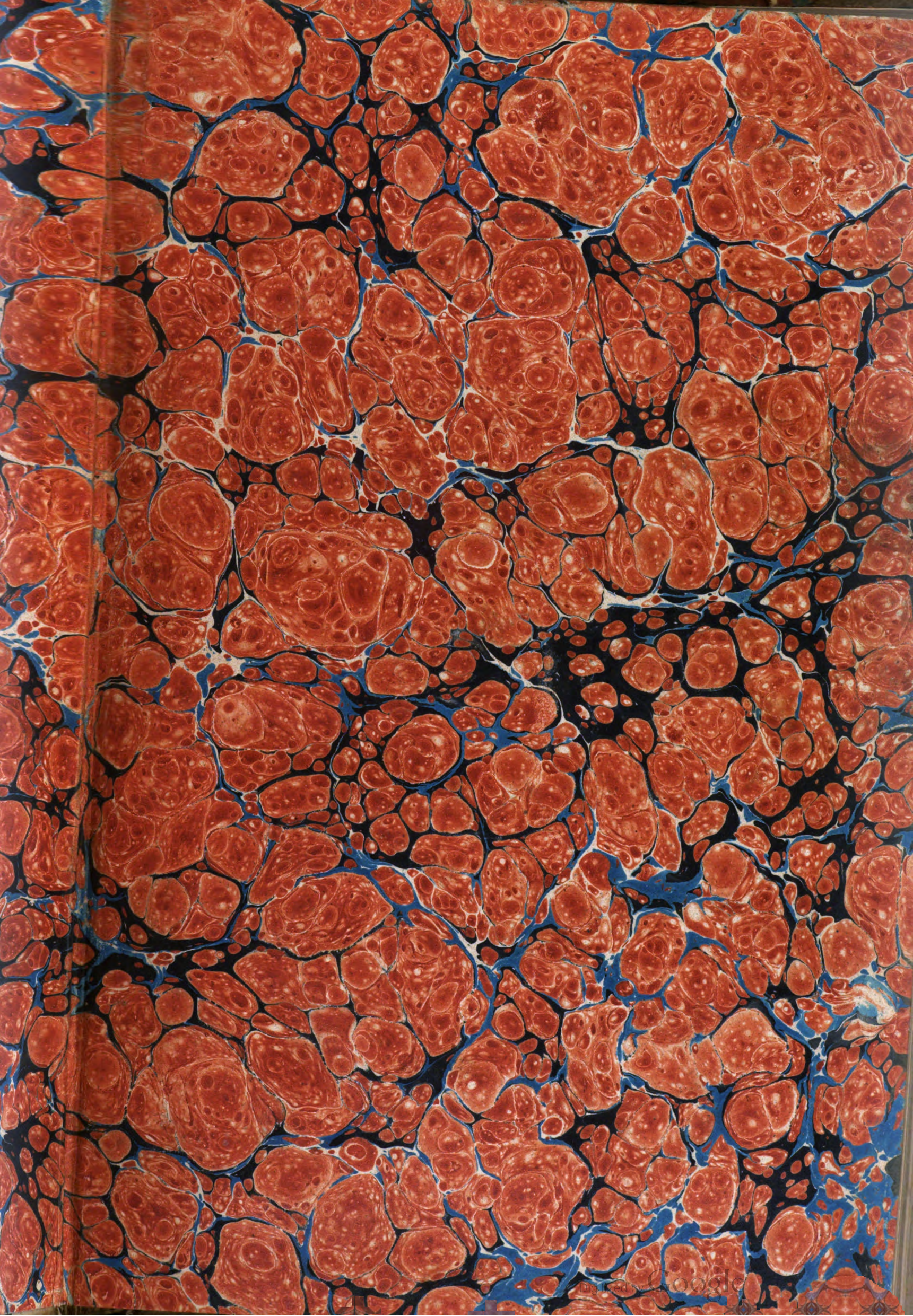
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THE
SESSIONAL PAPERS
PRINTED BY ORDER
OF
THE HOUSE OF LORDS,
OR PRESENTED BY ROYAL COMMAND,
IN THE
Session 1847-8,
(11° & 12° VICTORIÆ,)
ARRANGED IN VOLUMES.

VOL. XL.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, &c.

(Ten Volumes,)

CONTINUED;

THE SUBJECTS ALPHABETICALLY ARRANGED.

SUBJECT OF THIS VOLUME:

Colonial Possessions.

1847-8.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, &c. 1847-8.

(TEN VOLUMES.)

CONTENTS OF THIS VOLUME.

NOTE.—*The FIGURE placed at the END OF THE LINE refers to the Manuscript Paging of the Volume as arranged for the House.*

COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

The REPORTS made for the Year 1847 to the SECRETARY OF STATE having the DEPARTMENT of the COLONIES, in continuation of the REPORTS annually made by the GOVERNORS of the BRITISH COLONIES with a view to exhibit generally the PAST and PRESENT STATE of HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS, and of the United States of the IONIAN ISLANDS. (Transmitted with the Blue Books for the Year 1847.) - - - - - - - - page 1

THE
R E P O R T S

Made for the Year 1847 to the Secretary of State having the Department of the Colonies: in continuation of the Reports annually made by the Governors of the British Colonies, with a view to exhibit generally

THE PAST AND PRESENT STATE

OF

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS,

AND OF THE

UNITED STATES OF THE IONIAN ISLANDS.

TRANSMITTED WITH THE BLUE BOOKS

For the Year 1847.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,

1848.

L O N D O N :

PRINTED BY W. CLOWES AND SONS, STAMFORD STREET,
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1848.

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REPORTS

EXHIBITING

THE PAST AND PRESENT STATE OF HER MAJESTY'S
COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

NOVA SCOTIA.

NOVA SCOTIA.

No. 1.

(No. 56.)

No. 1.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor Sir J. HARVEY, K.C.B., to
Earl GREY.Government House, Halifax,
October 18, 1848.*(Received November 1, 1848.)*

MY LORD,

1. IN transmitting last year the annual Blue Book I apprized your Lordship of my inability, from the very limited period of my residence in Nova Scotia, to forward with it a general report that would be satisfactory to your Lordship, or that would convey to Her Majesty's Government a faithful picture of its condition and its resources. I proceed now to perform that task, and, referring to the volume just completed for minute details, will endeavour to furnish such general information as may be acceptable to the Imperial authorities, and useful to those who may desire to immigrate or to seek, in the commerce or varied industry of this colony, an investment for their capital.

Introduction.

2. The province of Nova Scotia, though the smallest of the North American group except the island of Prince Edwards, possesses so many advantages peculiar to itself, stands to the surrounding colonies in so many interesting relations, is so thoroughly British in all its social aspects, occupies a position so important as a naval station, and a medium of communication between the Old World and the New, that its value is not to be estimated by mere territorial extent. Its length from east to west (including Cape Breton, divided into three counties) is 350 miles; its breadth from 50 to 80 miles. The area upwards of 16,000 square miles, of which, perhaps, 3000 are covered with water. There are no mountains of great magnitude or remarkable elevation; ranges of highlands, seldom exceeding 500 feet above the level of the sea, run through the country, generally from east to west; and, with less prominent hills and undulations, give a pleasing variety to the scenery. The land under tillage in 1838 comprised 400,000 acres. There is, perhaps, an equal amount chopped, used as pasturage, or yielding from the virgin soil, by the rude process common to new countries, a valuable portion of subsistence to recent settlers. A very large part of the whole, perhaps 9,000,000 acres, is still covered with primeval forest, or has only changed its aspect for the worse from the action of fires, which, in the heat of summer, often run over uncultivated portions of the country, deforming its surface and injuring its fertility.

Territorial extent.

3. Though Nova Scotia can boast of no very large lakes or rivers, few countries of its size present a greater variety, or are more conveniently or abundantly watered. Lake Rosignol, the largest in the province, situate in the county of Queen's, is stated to be about 30 miles in length. The Shubenacadie river is, perhaps, the most important, being upwards of half a mile wide at its mouth, draining into the Basin of Mines, an extensive chain of lakes, and having a powerful ebb and flow of tide for 25 miles. The Lahave, the Annapolis, the East River of Pictou, the Avon, the St. Croix, and several others, navigable by small vessels for some distance from the sea, are valuable accessaries to commerce, and furnish great facilities for the shipment and exportation of the productions of the surrounding agricultural or mineral districts. The smaller streams tributary to these, or draining the country by independent channels, are numerous, and furnish an amount of water-power for mill-sites and other manufacturing purposes of which no general description can convey an adequate idea. This exhaustless resource, as yet but slightly called into profitable exercise, will, at no distant day, as population and capital increase, and a more liberal policy pervades the commercial legislation of this continent, powerfully stimulate the manufacturing industry of a people in whose soil coal and iron

Inland waters.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Harbours and
basins.

are most abundantly combined. The number of small lakes in Nova Scotia, particularly on its southern side, may be estimated by the fact that nearly 100 are to be found between Halifax and Saint Margaret's Bay, a tract of country that neither in length nor breadth exceeds 20 miles.

4. But even more important than its inland waters may be ranked its noble harbours, estuaries, and deep-sea basins, most of them open and navigable at all seasons of the year. The centre of Cape Breton, giving to its three counties in nearly their whole extent a double sea-coast, is occupied by a broad arm of the sea, navigable by vessels of any size, and affording facilities for the import and export of commodities rarely in any country surpassed. The basin of Annapolis, into which flows the river of that name, though of less extent, is a noble estuary, sheltered by mountain ranges, opening to the Bay of Fundy through a narrow gorge, navigable by large vessels and accessible at all seasons of the year. Young as the country is, the shores of this basin, for an extent of 30 miles, are highly cultivated; they are overlooked by smiling cottages, that are surrounded by waving corn-fields or embosomed in extensive orchards, and present, in the summer season, many features of which the people are justly proud. The Basin of Mines is still more remarkable. It is a continuation of the Bay of Fundy, the rushing tides of which (rising and falling 60 feet) expand after passing through the strait formed by Blowmedon and Parrsborough, into a broad basin, which washes the shores of four of the most fertile of the midland counties, receiving into its bosom 19 rivers, and, by its powerful ebb and flow for miles up and down many of them, affording for navigation singular facilities which even adverse winds cannot control. Along the southern coast of Nova Scotia, from Cape Sable to Cape North, noble harbours, open at all seasons of the year, are numerous. Some of these are of such depth and extent that their dimensions often contrast strangely with the limited commerce which as yet floats upon their bosoms. Shelburne, Halifax, Sheet Harbour, are unsurpassed in any country that I ever saw; and many others, with roadsteads and sheltered anchorages and arms of the sea innumerable, invite, as it were, the commerce of the world, and afford to Her Majesty's ships, employed in peace or war upon the Atlantic, ample accommodation. These harbours, obviously, were never intended by Providence solely for the use of the inhabitants, however numerous they may become, of this small province, the rugged shores of which they indent. Already the Nova Scotians are becoming, to a large extent, the carriers to Canada of tropical and foreign productions. It is confidently anticipated that vessels from the shores of the great lakes, passing Quebec and Montreal, will bring their cargoes down the St. Lawrence to this port, and it is daily becoming more apparent that, at no distant period (from the closed navigation of the Gulf and River of St. Lawrence throughout so many months of the year, even without a railroad, and with it there can be no doubt of the fact) the fine harbours of Nova Scotia must become entrepôts for the extensive regions which lie beyond them.

Soils.

5. The soils of Nova Scotia are various along the southern shore, washed by the Atlantic; a belt of granite rock forms the basis, extending, in many places, 20 miles into the interior. This region is the least fertile, and, being the first which strangers coming from Europe or the United States see, naturally creates an unfavourable impression; but even this has its resources. A valuable fishery, inferior only to that of Newfoundland, extends along its whole front, the fruitful nursery of an active coasting and foreign trade. All the best harbours are situated in this region, that of the capital forming a central station and basis of commercial operations. The chief towns, Yarmouth, Liverpool, Halifax, are also on this side, main roads connecting them in various directions with the rich lands of the interior. Nor is this tract of country entirely destitute of agricultural resources. Except along some of the headlands, from the bald rocks of which the ceaseless surge of the Atlantic has swept every trace of soil or vegetation, there is a covering of earth, generally a stiff clay, often, as on the front lands of Lunenburg, Halifax, and Yarmouth, and on the "hardwood hills," everywhere scattered through the barrens, of great depth and proved fertility. The labour of clearing lands on this side of the province is very severe, from the prevalence of surface-stone; but, when cleared, it is valuable, from its proximity to the open harbours, the fisheries, and the growing commercial towns. The granite disappears altogether, except in one or two places, at an average distance of 20 miles from the sea, slate forming the basis of the upland in the immediate rear, particularly in the centre

of the province. Beyond this is the region of fertility, the soil being excellent, and stone (except quarries of grindstone and freestone in the counties of Pictou and Cumberland) rarely to be seen. This, for agricultural purposes, by far the most important portion of the province, presents to the husbandman three kinds of country,—the upland, the intervale, and the marsh. The upland in the counties of Inverness, Sydney, Pictou, Colchester, Cumberland, Hants, Kings, Annapolis, and Digby, is generally fertile and free from stones. Along the banks of many rivers, draining these extensive tracts, are found the intervalles, being narrow strips of light alluvial soil, above the head of the tide, and skirting the streams, until near their head-waters the mountains close in and make the descent too rapid to admit of deposits being formed. These intervalles are not more fertile than good upland, but are generally preferred: some of them, overflowed by the freshets, which bring down rich particles of soil from higher elevations, will produce hay without manure; others, secure from flowage, and requiring no expense to dyke them from the sea, make excellent tillage land, easily worked from their presenting level surfaces and a light yet fertile soil. Such of these intervalles as are cultivated bear grain and green crops well, perhaps with less manure than upland usually requires, but they do not retain it so tenaciously, and, besides, are earlier struck with frost.

6. The dyked marshes of Nova Scotia, formed along the banks of all the rivers flowing into the Bay of Fundy and Basin of Mines, are the real wealth of the province, and redeem her from the lower level, which, but for them, she must have occupied as an agricultural country. I have said that the tides of the bay of Fundy rise and fall about 60 feet. The tide-wave, pressed on by the mass of waters in the rear, rushes with resistless velocity up the beds of the streams, meeting and controlling the waters descending towards the basin, and overflowing with a rich deposit the flat lands, which extend on either side. The receding tide leaves these covered with rich mud, successive layers of which, deposited in the lapse of years, and gradually overgrown with wild grasses (which, as they rise, intercept and bind together fresh particles of soil), form the marsh lands of Nova Scotia, which have been cropped without manure for 150 years. The cost of protecting these lands is not very heavy compared with their intrinsic value, which is hardly yet sufficiently estimated by those who own them; but their comparative worth may be judged by the fact, that, while the best upland in Nova Scotia, in favourable situations, except on the peninsula of Halifax, rarely sells higher than 10% an acre, from 20% to 50% is perhaps the average price of dyke, while woodland or pasturage, on the hill sides, but a few miles in the rear, will scarcely command 1%.

7. Ten years have elapsed since an official census of the population was taken. Though imperfect, it was recognised as an approximation to an accurate return. The numbers then were 200,000. A Bill was prepared, at my suggestion, and introduced by the Secretary last session, providing for a renewed census, and for the collection of more extensive statistical returns than at present exist in this province. The Bill was, on reflection, deferred, because had these returns been taken this year, they would not have furnished so faithful a picture of the country as was to have been desired. The failure of the potato and other crops, felt so severely in Europe, has also been experienced in Nova Scotia. In 1845 the potato rot made its appearance, and was in that year very destructive, sweeping away nearly the whole crop. In 1846, sparing the early potatoes, it destroyed those which had been planted later in the season. In 1847 there was immense loss, partly from the rot, and in part from the potato not growing, in consequence of the unsoundness of the seed. In each of these years the weevil or fly destroyed a very large proportion of the wheat. These failures were followed by effects similar to those produced, on a larger scale, in the mother country, within the same period. The sudden loss of so great a quantity of food had, in some of the poorer counties, to be supplied by the liberality of the legislature; and as bread stuffs and seed had to be extensively imported, the drain of the precious metals produced, as in Europe, a corresponding depression of trade, followed, when the panic was at its height in England, by several commercial failures. From this depressed condition the country is slowly recovering. A few bountiful harvests will restore to the inhabitants their accustomed supplies. In the mean time it is consolatory to reflect, that in no part of the province, even in those three years of scarcity, has life been lost for lack of food. It will be obvious to your Lordship that, a census taken at this time,

NOVA SCOTIA.

when stock has been largely reduced and many of the labouring population have been driven abroad in search of employment, would be imperfect. I must, therefore, apologize for omitting much that would properly belong to this Report; but hope to be able to supply the deficiency in some subsequent year. The numbers at the present time may be safely estimated at 300,000.

8. The population of Nova Scotia is now chiefly composed of a native race, sprung directly or indirectly from the three great families of the United Kingdom; English, Irish, and Scotchmen, are numerous. The Irish are found in large numbers only in the capital; the Scotch chiefly in the eastern counties. The Western and Midland counties are principally occupied by the descendants of the loyalists, whose blood is English. The county of Lunenburg is inhabited by a race, sprung from a body of German and Swiss Protestants, who emigrated from Rotterdam in 1753. There are several settlements of French Acadians, the township of Clare containing the largest and most important. There is no war of races here, nor jealousies on account of origin. Men of different lands cherish their national reminiscences and attachments, with mutual respect for each other's feelings, and their descendants form one race, and are known by but one name. The Indians are still a distinct people; but there are only a few hundreds of them left in the province.

Religion.

9. The religious divisions are those of the United Kingdom, and of North America generally. The design of the original French adventurers was to establish the Roman Catholic Church; the leading men of the Loyalist emigration did establish the Church of England, but Congregationalists and members of other churches were numerous among their followers. Dissent increased, from various causes, and the Dissenters, reinforced by more recent emigration from the old country, chiefly of Presbyterians from North Britain, and Catholics from Ireland, form now a great majority of the population. The five largest religious bodies are Churchmen, Presbyterians, Catholics, Methodists, and Baptists; the proportions, as shown by the census of 1827, were—

Churchmen	.	.	.	28,659
Presbyterians	.	.	.	37,225
Catholics	.	.	.	20,401
Methodists	.	.	.	9,408
Baptists	.	.	.	19,790
Other denominations.	.	.	.	8,365

These proportions are, probably, still preserved. Religious distinctions are attended with few inconveniences. The different churches are sustained by those only who take an interest in them.

Education.

9. Though the system of education hitherto adopted in Nova Scotia has had its defects, still it has insensibly diffused over the country a fair share of intelligence. The settlers from New England and the adjoining states brought with them their attachment for common schools and a commendable ambition for the establishment of higher seminaries. The Presbyterians from Scotland also introduced their familiar acquaintance with the machinery and advantages of education, even in a comparatively poor country, and the active exertions of both bodies have given a stimulus to improvement which is now perceptibly operating over the whole mass. A Common School Act that divides the province into districts, in which the people appoint their own trustees and manage their schools on a popular basis, controlled by Boards of Commissioners appointed by the executive, has been in operation in Nova Scotia since 1826. It comes up for revision by the Legislature every three or four years, when improvements, suggested by experience, are introduced. The number of common schools in operation in 1847 was 1025, in which 34,380 children were instructed. In addition to these a respectable high school or academy is maintained in each county.

Colleges.

10. Collegiate education, owing to the rivalries and distrust which peculiar circumstances have generated, though it has cost the province much money, is still at a very low ebb. Unfortunately the college originally founded in 1802, at a time when it was supposed that unity of religious faith might be established in Nova Scotia, excluded from its chairs and its honours all who did not subscribe certain tests, similar to those which are required at Oxford and Cambridge. And although this exclusiveness was afterwards removed, it had produced jealousy, opposition, and finally an almost total abandonment by the bulk of the population of what was confessedly, considering the early period at



which it was founded, a very respectable institution. Others sprung up in different parts of the province and connected with different interests. In a country the combined resources of which would be required to maintain one efficient university, each religious body has essayed to found its college upon denominational principles. The Legislature was, at first, forced to countenance this system, but latterly, as its absurdity became more apparent, has vainly endeavoured to remove the obstacles which sectarian rivalry and the personal interests of gentlemen, who, from time to time, became connected with these seminaries, presented. These have, hitherto, opposed obstructions to a union of interest and an adequate provision for the liberal endowment of a university that might give to the youth of Nova Scotia the sound education and higher polish which, from their natural endowments, they are so well fitted to receive.

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11. Lord Dalhousie and Sir James Kempt, foreseeing the embarrassments likely to arise from the multiplication of colleges, laboured to effect a union, which was subsequently strongly recommended by Lord Stanley, Lord Glenelg, and other colonial secretaries. Whether my government will be in a condition to deal with the question effectually I regard as extremely problematical, but it would afford me much satisfaction to give my assent to a measure which would place the higher branches of education on a more respectable and permanent foundation.

12. The climate of Nova Scotia is affected by its almost insular position. In Canada and those portions of New Brunswick remote from the sea, winter commences and breaks up with a certainty and endures with a steadfastness here unknown. In Nova Scotia there is sometimes sledding and hard frost for weeks before Christmas; and perhaps in the following year the plough may be seen in the fields as late as the 10th of January. The north-west winds generally blow for three or four days successively, during which the air is clear and bracing, and are usually followed by gentler airs from the south or south-east, when rain and sleet dissolve the snow and break up the winter roads. The springs are tedious; "winter" not only "lingering in the lap of May," but chilling the atmosphere of June. The summer heats for a brief season are excessive, vegetation is singularly rapid, and the autumn, which includes the Indian summer, is delightful. The thermometer ranges from 18 to 70, and the table below will convey an idea of the sudden rises and depressions.

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE for HALIFAX.

MONTHS.	Thermometer.		
	Maximum.	Medium.	Minimum.
January . . .	42	20	2
February . . .	40	18	10
March . . .	52	25	6
April . . .	54	30	8
May . . .	60	40	20
June . . .	68	50	30
July . . .	80	63	40
August . . .	90	70	55
September . .	79	51	48
October . . .	68	51	30
November . . .	59	38	18
December . .	46	25	7

Nova Scotia is very healthy, and the agues and bilious fevers of Western Canada are unknown.

13. In agriculture this province (though to the eye of a skilful husbandman presenting many deficiencies, common perhaps to all new countries, and susceptible of vast improvement,) has yet reached, compared with other colonies, a very respectable status. Prince Edward Island having no fishing, manufacturing, or mining population to support, and a light soil unincumbered with stone, perhaps imports less bread and exports more oats and potatoes than Nova Scotia, in proportion to its size and population; but Newfoundland receives her chief supplies of fresh meat, poultry, vegetables, and the coarser grains from this province, while New Brunswick, unable to compete in her own markets with the Nova Scotia farmer, until very lately sought to protect her agriculturalists by a high and almost prohibitory intercolonial tariff. Nova Scotia does not yet, however, supply her own people with bread, even in

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good seasons; some counties, such as Pictou, where oats are extensively consumed, raise a surplus, and some others nearly furnish bread enough for their inhabitants. Yet into the southern counties, the chief seats of commerce and the fisheries, the importations of superfine flour from the United States are still very considerable. In return quantities of potatoes are shipped from the western counties to the northern and eastern States almost every year. Wheat, potatoes, and oats are the most important crops; but buckwheat, rye, barley, Indian corn, and field peas are extensively cultivated, and in seasons when the wheat and potatoes fail are of great value. It is scarcely necessary to observe that the husbandman in Nova Scotia is free from the burden of tithe and land-tax. The horticulture in the neighbourhood of the towns and villages is respectable, its importance is becoming more obvious every year; but neat gardens are not, particularly in the eastern counties, such common features of the rural districts as might be desired. The apple orchards of the western counties are very productive, and extend along the roadside, through the township of Granville, in an unbroken line for 30 miles. Apples and cider are annually exported, and the domestic supply is cheap and abundant. Cattle are exported to New Brunswick not only to supply a part of the general consumption of that province, but to form working teams for its lumberers, and Newfoundland receives nearly all its sheep and live stock from Nova Scotia. But our breeds are inferior to what they should be. Though a few animals are occasionally imported by the Legislature or by agricultural societies with a view to their improvement, too little attention is paid by the farmers to the importance of crossing and selection, and consequently the noble specimens to be met with in the mother country are very rarely seen.

Commercial.

14. Nature has designed Nova Scotia for a commercial country. Everywhere surrounded by water (except on that narrow isthmus which connects her with New Brunswick) with the Bay of Fundy and Gulf of St. Lawrence in her rear and the Atlantic in her front; her people, to whom the sea is a familiar object from childhood, take to its bosom cheerfully. The farmers' sons in the midland counties, where ship building is also carried on, become shipwrights, mariners, or masters of coasters and plaistermen, just as the prospects of advantage are presented, or accident may give a bias to the mind. Further east the coal trade, the supply of West India produce to Canada or of agricultural productions to Newfoundland, offer to the enterprising their peculiar attractions. The west has its grindstones, cordwood, and other articles, to convey to the United States; and on the southern seaboard the coast and deep sea fisheries people the rugged caves and inlets which indent it with a hardy race to whom farming and gardening are but the amusements of an idle hour, whose homes and whose occupations are on the sea. An active coasting trade springs naturally in a country so situated, it becomes intercolonial almost as soon as it is generated, as in some cases only a narrow strait or arm of the sea divides one colony from another, while the supply of the British West Indies very early attracted towards those islands from Nova Scotia an extensive trade in fish and lumber.

15. Prior to 1824 the foreign trade of Nova Scotia was very limited, but the changes in the commercial policy of the Empire, suggested and carried through by Mr. Huskisson, opened a wider field for colonial enterprise, of which the North Americans were not slow to avail themselves. With every relaxation yielded by the Imperial Parliament the foreign commerce of the colonies has attained a further development, and Nova Scotia vessels, besides their traffic with the neighbouring States, Canada and the West Indies, now trade to the Baltic, the Mediterranean, China, the Mauritius, the East Indies, the Brazils, the Havana, and our merchants and mariners are fast acquiring an accurate acquaintance with distant seas and with foreign markets in every part of the world.

16. Carrying out the policy suggested in your Lordship's Despatch of 31st December, 1846, and co-operating under the auspices of Lord Elgin, the Colonial Legislatures have adopted measures for establishing among the northern group a free intercolonial trade, only modified by considerations which touch sources of revenue already pledged for indispensable fiscal obligations.

17. One further change is now anxiously desired and as confidently anticipated. It is the realization of that policy, suggested in the correspondence between Lord Palmerston and Mr. Bancroft, for an unrestrained reciprocal commerce between Great Britain and the United States, and the repeal of the

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Navigation Laws. Such measures would give a stimulus to the trade of all those colonies; and their population would gladly welcome American vessels into their rivers and bays, provided the whole continent south to Mexico were open to their tonnage; and if their fish, timber, deals, coal, and agricultural productions were admitted on equally favourable terms into the ports of the United States. Negotiations have been suggested, I believe, between the Governments of Canada and Washington on the basis of the Bill recently introduced to Congress by Mr. Grinnell, and Nova Scotia would cheerfully avail herself of any advantages which Canada may thus secure.

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I subjoin a table, showing the tonnage of the province and its exports and imports for 1847 :—

IMPORTS.

From.	Estimated Value in Sterling.	Vessels.	Tons.	Men.
	£.			
Great Britain	330,915	217	63,366	24,586
British Colonies, viz :—				
West Indies	28,850	1,975	135,019	
North America	187,590			
Elsewhere	4,110			
United States	309,383	1,901	167,138	
Foreign States	171,106	264	25,387	
	1,031,954	4,357	390,910	24,586

EXPORTS.

To.	Estimated Value in Sterling.	Vessels.	Tons.	Men.
	£.			
Great Britain	71,804	275	67,049	26,133
British Colonies, viz :—				
West Indies	202,415	2,032	149,524	
North America	237,004			
Elsewhere	6,587			
United States	474,950	2,075	192,085	26,133
Foreign States	38,309	85	6,805	
	1,031,069	4,467	415,463	26,133

18. The currency of Nova Scotia, composed chiefly of province and Bank paper, is strictly guarded by law, which provides for its prompt conversion into the precious metals; the Government reserves to itself the circulation of notes under 5*l.*, and has 47,974*l.* of paper afloat, chiefly one pound notes, receivable for duties at all the revenue offices, and convertible into specie on presentation at the Treasury. There are three banks, whose combined issue is about 140,000*l.* sterling. Old Halifax currency, represented by the Spanish dollar, has given place to a circulation, of which British coins are the base: 16*s.* represent the pound currency; 80*l.* sterling are equal to 100*l.* currency. The addition of one-fourth easily converts sterling into currency. The failure of a bank has never occurred in Nova Scotia; and the public are effectually protected by the present state of the law. The public debt of Nova Scotia is 97,774*l.*

Currency.

19. The legal rate of interest is six per cent. The banks charge this rate upon paper discounted, and allow three per cent. to those who deposit with them. Provincial loans are taken at five per cent, and four per cent. is allowed on sums paid into the savings' bank, an institution conducted under a provincial guarantee.

Rate of interest.

20. The fisheries have been already incidentally referred to. A few observations will more clearly explain their nature and extent. Nearly all the small lakes and streams abound with trout. Gasperaux or alewives go up the larger streams in great quantities every spring, and are caught in dip nets in favourable situations. Salmon are found in most of the rivers, which they ascend to deposit their spawn. The salmon fisheries of this province, at its first settlement, were very productive, as may be judged by the fact that 1000 barrels were drawn from Liverpool river in one season. An Act has passed the Legislature authorizing the sessions in each county to make regulations for the protection of this fishery; and on the report of the sessions a general code of regulations will be

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framed applicable to the whole province. The erection of grist and saw mills upon the streams has, in many instances, destroyed, and in all has greatly limited this fishery. Salmon are caught in quantities upon the coast for the supply of the home or United States market; and many of the rivers still attract the angler, and furnish to the Indians and poorer settlers, by whom salmon are speared, a portion of subsistence. But it is difficult to protect the river fisheries from the number of proprietors of lands along the banks, who can seldom agree in local regulations for their management, and by whom general laws are so easily evaded.

Shad and bass.

21. Around the shores of the Basin of Mines and Bay of Fundy, great quantities of shad and bass are caught in wears, at every flux and reflux of the tide. The Basin of Annapolis has a fishery peculiar to itself, of small herrings caught in wears, and which are smoked and packed in boxes. These are much prized, and find a ready sale in foreign markets.

Cod and haddock.

22. The cod and haddock fisheries are actively prosecuted all along the southern coast; these fish are found in deep water very near the shores, but the principal catch is taken on the banks about 10 miles off, the poorer fishermen rowing or sailing out in their whaleboats, and returning every night. Small decked vessels are fitted out by those who are able to keep them, and these generally remain on the grounds till they have completed their lading. The Nova Scotians also participate in the Gulf and Labrador fisheries, and pay occasional visits to the banks and shores of Newfoundland. The export of cod-fish in 1847 was 313,822 quintals, valued at 125,442*l.* sterling.

Mackarel.

23. In spring the shoals of mackerel, making their way from the south to the north, and returning in the fall, glide along the coasts and headlands of Nova Scotia, and penetrate into the coves and inlets, where immense quantities of them are stopped with seines and hauled on shore; 500 barrels are by no means an uncommon draught, and 1000 are sometimes taken. In the autumn of 1846 mackerel were stopped in such abundance, that it was difficult to procure salt and barrels for their preservation. Mackerel are also taken in nets all around the shores.

Herring.

24. Herrings are caught at times in great quantities. The following return will give your Lordship an idea of the pickled fish trade, which is annually becoming of more importance, and which, were the markets of the United States thrown open to Nova Scotia, is capable of almost indefinite extension.

RETURN showing the EXPORT of PICKLED FISH in 1847.

Alewives . . .	{ 6,793 barrels 31 kits	} From Nova Scotia Proper.
Herrings . . .	{ 22,043 barrels 433 half barrels 150 kegs 353 thirds of barrels	
Mackerel . . .	{ 186,406 barrels 5,078 half barrels 295 quarter barrels 3,187 thirds of barrels	
Salmon . . .	{ 388 tierces 5,101 barrels 305 half barrels 413 thirds of barrels 450 kits	

32,919 barrels, valued at £29,486 sterling From Cape Breton.

Whale.

25. Several attempts have been made to prosecute the whale fishery from the harbours of Nova Scotia, but I regret to add that the success which has attended the efforts of the enterprizing has not yet given a permanent character to this valuable branch of industry. Almost concurrently with the establishment of the fishery in the ports of New England, an attempt was made by some Quakers to purchase water-lots and fit out vessels in the harbour of Halifax. Either disappointed in the sites they required, or attracted by fairer prospects, or perhaps not being permitted by the Navigation Laws to bring their own vessels to Nova Scotia, these men removed to Britain, and for years no attempt was made to share with the New Englanders the advantages of a pursuit which their industry and skill were annually elevating in importance. Since 1832 several voyages have been made, some of them yielding fair returns; but either from the want of capital to secure the average profit of a series of

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voyages, from the absence of economy in the outfit, knowledge of the business, or integrity on the part of those entrusted with the management, the operations became languid, intermittent, and latterly have entirely ceased.

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26. The seal fishery has been frequently attempted, under the encouragement of bounties from the Legislature. A few good voyages have been made occasionally, particularly from the island of Cape Breton; but the success which has hitherto attended the efforts of those who have turned their attention to this fishery has not been sufficiently decisive to attract towards it any large amount of capital or industry.

Seal.

27. The mines and minerals of Nova Scotia are, though but very slightly explored, known to be of incalculable value. Perhaps a third part of Cape Breton rests upon a coal-field, and coal in abundance is found in many parts of the counties of Pictou, Colchester, Cumberland, and Hants. Iron in combination with coal exists in many places; and although but one successful effort has been made to work these mines, and that prosecuted under cover of a monopoly generally complained of, still the Nova Scotians look forward to the time when their country must largely profit from the decided advantages of its very favourable structure. The export of coal from the mines of Pictou and Sydney, originally opened by the local government, and subsequently leased to the General Mining Association, amounts to 106,117 chaldrons.

Mines and minerals.

28. An abortive attempt to work copper has been made, but failed for want of capital, or from an injudicious selection of the field of operation. There is no doubt that copper exists at Cape d'Or and in other localities. The county of Cumberland produces the best grindstones perhaps to be found in the world, and the export of these abroad is becoming annually more extensive. Gypsum is found in abundance, and furnishes, particularly in the county of Hants, an active and profitable trade. But this branch of industry is yet but very partially developed or its value understood. As capital and population increase, as the contemplated relaxation of trade gives a stimulus to manufactures, and the destruction of the forests of the American continent, and the multiplication of steam power on land and sea, enlarge the demand for fuel, the mines of Nova Scotia must come to be extensively worked. They are unsurpassed in richness by any on the continent, and are situated in such proximity to water carriage, that the cost of transportation by land must be comparatively light. No coal has yet been discovered north of the St. Lawrence.

29. The manufactures of Nova Scotia are, as yet, of an extremely simple and unpretending character. Coarse cloths, or "homespun," woven by the wives and daughters of the peasantry, are made in all the settlements, and are generally worn by that class; the more affluent dressing in English broadcloth only on the Sabbath. Some of these home fabrics are of handsome patterns. Fulling-mills exist in the older townships, in which this cloth is thickened and dyed. Where these are too distant the dying is a simple household process. Sheep are kept on every farm, and supply the raw material. Coarse flannel for under garments, bed linen, woollen blankets, and carpets are also made. Flax grows luxuriantly; but handspun and woven is not considered profitable, the British article finding its way into the province at prices so low. Power-looms are unknown here. Tanning, to the extent of the preservation of all the hides grown in the country, and of those occasionally imported from South America, is also practised. The yards are not extensive, except in the neighbourhood of the capital (in some of which steam power is used), and many farmers tan their own leather in hogsheads sunk by the road-side, or in pits of the simplest construction. Leather is imported occasionally from Canada, and sheepskins and wool are exported to the United States.

Manufactures.

30. Wheat, oats, barley, rye, buckwheat, and maize, grown in Nova Scotia, are ground within the province. The annual crop gives employment to numerous mills, of which, with one exception, water is the motive power. For 20 years the Legislature has given encouragement, by bounty, to the erection of oat-mills, which are now numerous. The oat crop seldom fails, and oatmeal, particularly in the counties peopled by Scotch emigrants, enters largely into the general consumption, and, during the prevalence of the potato blight, has formed an invaluable resource. Wheat is imported into Halifax and two or three other seaport towns, from the Baltic and the United States, for manufacture; and, while the Legislature levied a duty on imported flour, the few mills at which it was ground found profitable employment. The high price of food during the latter years of scarcity, joined to the growing

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belief that bread should not be taxed, has led to the repeal of this duty ; and though the mills, having to sustain a competition with the more extensive establishments of the United States, are less profitable, all classes are benefited by the corresponding reduction in the price of the staff of life.

31. Saw-mills are numerous ; but the extensive and costly establishments, common to Canada and New Brunswick, do not exist in Nova Scotia, as we have not the pine forests to sustain them ; but all the lumber required for the construction of buildings, and of ships and vessels for the supply of our own commerce or for exportation, is sawed within the country. Pine lumber is extensively shipped from the eastern ports to Newfoundland, from the western to the West Indies, forming a deck load for vessels carrying out fish. Plank and deals are also manufactured for exportation to the mother-country, and, of late, sleepers for rail-roads have been in some demand. Occasional cargoes of ton timber are also shipped ; but this branch of trade, never very profitable to individuals or advantageous to the country ere the forests had receded before the progress of cultivation, is less so now, and has been almost abandoned.

32. Of iron manufactures for exportation, except stoves, to some of the colonies, and chain cables to the United States, there are none. Forges, however, are found in all the villages and hamlets, and are numerous in the larger towns. These supply iron-work for mills, ship-building, agricultural carriages and implements, and shoes for cattle. Stoves are imported from the Carron works of Canada and the United States, and iron manufactures of all kinds, are largely imported from the mother country. The iron mines of Nova Scotia are not worked for want of capital. An experiment was tried at Moose river some years ago, by a Company, whose skill and knowledge were not equal to their enterprise. The capital was sunk, and the work abandoned.

33. Leather, to the extent of the whole quantity tanned in the country, is manufactured every year. Little is ever exported, while some comes in from England, Canada, and the United States. Boots, shoes, saddlery, and harness, are made up in all the towns and villages, but the supply (of the quantity and at the prices to compete with imported articles) is not equal to the demand, England and the United States largely supplying the market, injuring it may be, for a time, but ultimately stimulating and improving the domestic manufacture.

34. Household furniture, carts, carriages, ploughs, and other agricultural implements, buckets, fish-barrels, and boxes, are made in great quantities, and various manufactories of wood, flourish in Nova Scotia, and yield profitable employment to those who conduct these branches of business.

35. Tobacco, confectionary, printing, and wrapping paper, hats, and some other articles, are manufactured in the neighbourhood of Halifax, where are also several distilleries for the preparation of spirits from molasses. Bonnets of bleached grass, and hats of straw, are made in many of the rural districts. Buildings are of wood almost universally. Some good stone and brick houses are to be seen in Halifax, and the other larger towns, but these form exceptions to the general rule. Stone houses carelessly built are apt to be damp in this climate ; a prejudice against them is in consequence generally entertained, which, added to the low price of lumber, gives wood the preference, and may for the next 20 years. But, as wood becomes scarce, more permanent structures will take the place of those annually decaying, or liable to destruction by fire. Stone, for building materials, abounds in Nova Scotia. Granite of the finest quality, on the south coast, is inexhaustible. Freestone is found all along the northern shore, and slate quite equal to that of Wales in the central region.

Arts and Sciences.

36. Nova Scotia, like all new countries, labours under a deficiency of taste for the pleasures of art, simply because she is destitute of the means for their cultivation and enjoyment. A few good pictures, captured during the war, are to be found in Halifax. A few more, inherited from friends who brought them from home in the earlier emigrations, with those owned by the Catholic church, and some hundreds, perhaps, of respectable copies by native artists, comprise all that administer to tastes so bountifully supplied yet so keenly excited by the exhaustless treasures presented by the public and private collections of Europe. As wealth increases, and is more generally diffused, pictures will also increase, and the art by which they are produced become more highly prized. The Art Union has of late done something to create this taste, subscriptions having been sent from this province, and prizes taken by subscribers. The beautiful engravings of the mother country, which, from their cheapness, compared with oil paintings, are better adapted to the limited means of a colo-

nial population, are doing more, as they are to be found in almost every respectable house, in the principal towns and villages.

37. For the acquisition of practical science the means are also limited. A mechanics' institute has been sustained in Halifax since 1831, at which gratuitous lectures on scientific and other subjects are given throughout six months of the year; a limited collection of models and apparatus is attached to this institution. Perhaps 10 other societies, formed with similar objects, exist in the interior towns and villages, and all of these diffuse around them some taste for science; but the practical schools, open to daily observation, which the workshops and manufactures of the mother country supply, of course are wanting.

38. Having amply discussed, on fitting occasions, the political principles applicable to this colony, and the changes which have taken place in its institutions, I have here only to report, that from the receipt of your Lordship's Despatch of the 31st of March, 1847, the usages of British constitutional government have been strictly followed, and Nova Scotia, when the necessary departments are arranged, will enjoy self-government in all things which involve her own internal affairs, as perfectly as a reflective and practical people can desire. Government.

39. The administration of government in Nova Scotia rests upon as popular a basis as is compatible with ownership of the soil. A freehold which yields 40s. currency worth of income qualifies a man to vote for a member, or to serve in the House of Assembly. From the abundance and low price of land, this qualification is easily acquired by any industrious person. A new adjustment of the representation has been, of late, frequently proposed, with a view to a fairer distribution of political influence. In the first organization of the country, certain townships were permitted to send members to the Assembly, their inhabitants also retaining the privilege of voting for members for the counties in which they were included. As new counties have been formed in which are no such privileged townships, and as large districts, lying beyond their borders in those which have them, have grown in population, resources, and intelligence, the distinction has become invidious, and will, it is more than probable, be ultimately effaced by the passage of some general measure of equalization. Representation.

40. The system of district councils, as established in Canada, has not yet been tried in Nova Scotia. A Bill was prepared under the auspices of my predecessor, but was not formally presented to the legislature; it being deemed more prudent to watch, for a time, the working of the system in the neighbouring province. Halifax is the only incorporated city in Nova Scotia; but the townships and districts of each county are invested by law with a certain modified municipal character, enabling the rate-payers to meet half-yearly, appoint local officers, and assess themselves for the support of the poor. The period is fast approaching, if it has not already arrived, when the advantages of municipal incorporation may be made more extensively available over the rural districts, organizing and developing their resources, training their population, and relieving the provincial government of much irksome labour and responsibility. To this subject it is more than probable that, at an early period, I shall have to invite your Lordship's special attention. Municipal institutions.

41. The revenues of Nova Scotia will be found described in detail in the Blue Book. They are chiefly raised by moderate taxes on imports, the greater proportion being produced by an *ad valorem* duty of 5 per cent. The heaviest direct tax is that of statute labour, which every adult is compelled to perform upon the roads, but which may be commuted by a money payment, if that is preferred. This tax is imposed by statute, but being generally worked out in labour, and the benefit immediately felt in improved communications, it falls lightly even on the poor. Roads and bridges are maintained by this contribution, in aid of which the legislature grants an annual sum, which has risen as high as 35,000*l.*, and seldom falls below 25,000*l.* The annual income of the province from all sources was, in 1847, 111,025*l.*; the expenditure during the same year, 122,223*l.* Revenues.

42. The various courts were described in the report forwarded in 1846. They are—a Court of Error, Court of Chancery, Supreme Court, Court of Vice-Admiralty, Court of Marriage and Divorce, Courts of General Sessions of the Peace, and Courts of Probate. Besides these, the magistracy of the province scattered over every county possess a power of commitment for criminal offences, and for the collection by summary process of debts under 10*l.* The Supreme Court makes the circuit of the province, and holds sittings Judicial establishments.

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twice a-year in each county, in addition to three terms at Halifax. The criminal calendar is generally very light; indeed, it may be safely asserted, that in no part of Her Majesty's dominions is the average amount of crime less, in proportion to the population, than in Nova Scotia. In all these courts natives of the provinces preside, and the bar which practices before them, numbering 140 members, includes the names of but very few not born in Nova Scotia. In all of them the statute and common law of England, if applicable to the state of society (and, if necessary, varied by local statute or judicial decision), is administered. The sages of the English law are perpetually referred to, and the modern decisions in the Common Law, Equity, or Admiralty Courts, quoted, as are also the opinions of eminent jurists in the neighbouring republic.

The Press.

43. The press of Nova Scotia is as free as that of England, claiming and enjoying, in fact, the same privileges, and restrained by the same laws. It displays a creditable degree of activity and ability, and, with the freedom, sometimes exhibits the licentiousness common to the press of the mother country. There are at present 13 newspapers published in the capital, and five in the interior. The circulation of English newspapers has increased an hundred fold since the establishment of the line of steam packets, and all the leading British and Irish periodicals are looked for with as much eagerness, and received with as much certainty, as the London newspapers were in Scotland and Ireland a few years ago. The cheap literature of the mother country is also widely diffused over this province, while the more expensive books find their way to the collections of the wealthy or into the public libraries.

Post-office establishment.

44. The post-office establishment, which at present is under the control of the Post Master General of England, has grown with the growth of the country and the improvement of its highways. Its branches extend into every county, bringing every settlement, however remote, within a moderate distance of its privileges. The rates of postage, at present, are high and unequal, but a uniformly low rate, as your Lordship is aware, will probably prevail over British America in the course of another year.

Steamers.

45. Mail steamers leave Halifax weekly for England, the United States, Bermuda, and Newfoundland; the latter touching at Sydney, Cape Breton. There is also steam intercourse between Halifax and St. Johns, New Brunswick, including the intervening ports along the western shore; and between Windsor, Annapolis, and St. Johns, on that side of the province washed by the Bay of Fundy. A steamboat plies in the Bras d'Or Lake, Cape Breton, and occasionally there is another, connecting Pictou with Prince Edward Island. Lines of stage-coaches run thrice a-week from Halifax to Pictou and Annapolis.

Railroads.

46. But one railroad has yet been laid down in Nova Scotia, and that used for the transportation of coal from the Pictou mines to the loading-ground, is the property of the General Mining Association. Two others have been projected; the great line from Halifax to Quebec, the official survey and report of which have just been completed, and a line from Halifax to Windsor, intended to connect the capital of the province with the rich marsh lands, and thriving towns and villages which lie around the Basin of Mines, and the counties immediately adjoining. A survey of this line is now in progress at the expense of the Legislature, and a proposition will probably be presented for its completion at the approaching session. From its peculiar geographical position, combined with the advantages enjoyed from the great steam-boat line established by the liberality of the British Government, Halifax will probably command the electric telegraphic communication between Europe and the American continent. As your Lordship is aware a Bill passed last session to provide for the construction of a line of electric telegraph from Halifax to the borders of New Brunswick. Other lines are in course of construction through Canada and the state of Maine, and as soon as the capital required to continue them through New Brunswick has been raised, our line will be formed, and thus the chain of communication be complete.

Military.

47. The defence of Nova Scotia is provided for, ordinarily, by the presence of two or three regiments of British troops in its garrisons, and the visits of the squadron in summer. An organized militia, consisting of 26 regiments, including a force of 44,248 men, exclusive of officers, is provided for by statute. These regiments are officered by commissions from the Crown, and when embodied for actual service, are subject to martial law. In peace they

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are rarely called out, except for inspection, but as every man in the province has a right to carry a gun, and few grow up within it, unpracticed in the use of fire-arms, they could soon be moulded for purposes of self-defence, into valuable auxiliaries to any troops, which in case of danger the Imperial Government could spare.

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48. The coasts of Nova Scotia, though not yet so systematically lighted as those of the mother country or even of the New England States, may yet be said to exhibit very creditable evidence of the value set by its people upon such aids to commerce. By a special law a tonnage duty is levied upon all ships and vessels entering the ports of Nova Scotia or departing therefrom (coasters paying a fixed rate per annum), and the produce of this tax, is held sacred to the building and maintenance of light-houses. Nineteen are in full operation, and two others are now in course of erection. Canada, New Brunswick, and Prince Edwards Island, liberally contribute to the support of these lights, in consideration of the additional security which they afford to the trade of these colonies.

Lighthouses.

49. The price of labour varies slightly in Nova Scotia with the price of food. 2s. 9d., and 3s. 3d. sterling per day, is paid generally by Government on the public roads, upon which farmers and farmer's sons, who have other pursuits, are chiefly employed. These rates will almost always command labour in the towns and villages, in which, however, it sometimes falls to 2s. and 2s. 9d. sterling. Farm servants receive 20l. currency per annum, and their board; first-rate men in the harvest time will earn 2l. 18s. sterling per month; captains of merchant vessels receive 8l. sterling per month; sailors 3l. 4s. sterling per month; mechanics are generally in demand, and can in ordinary seasons, earn from 4s. to 8s. sterling per day.

Wages.

50. The price of food is regulated partly by the state of the crop, and partly by the prices of bread-stuffs, in the neighbouring republic, whence the quantity, over and above her crop, which Nova Scotia requires is drawn. The abundant supply of fish in almost every part of this province very directly influences the price of all other commodities, and the low rates at which it may be purchased in the Halifax market agreeably surprises strangers from Europe. I give below a price current, including a few of the leading articles which enter into general consumption.

Prices.

		Sterling.
Wheaten Flour	per barrel of 196 lbs. .	1l. 7s.
Wheat	per imperial bushel .	4s. 10d.
Wheaten Bread	per 2 lb. loaf	3d.
Horned Cattle for work	each	10l. to 12l.
Ditto, slaughtered	per 100 lbs.	1l. to 1l. 4s.
Horses	each	12l. to 30l.
Sheep	do.	10s. to 1l.
Goats	do.	16s. to 1l. 12s.
Swine, alive	do.	1l. to 1l. 5s.
Milk	per quart	3d.
Butter, fresh	per lb.	9d. to 10d.
Ditto, salt	do.	8d. to 9d.
Cheese	do.	6d. to 10d.
Beef	do.	3d. to 6d.
Mutton	do.	3d. to 6d.
Pork	do.	3d. to 4d.
Rice	per 14 lbs.	2s. 10d.
Coffee	per lb.	7d.
Tea	do.	1s. 8d. to 2s.
Sugar	per 16 lbs.	4s.
Salt, fine	per bushel	4s.
Ditto, coarse	do.	1s. 7d.
Wine	per gallon	4s. to 10s.
Brandy	do.	8s.
Beer	per 5 gallons	4s. to 6s.
Tobacco	per lb.	10d.
Hay	per ton	4l. 10s.
Oats	per bushel	2s. to 2s. 6d.
Corn, kiln dried	do.	3s. to 3s. 6d.
Wood	per cord	12s. to 16s.
Coal	per chaldron	1l. to 1l. 5s.
Rum	per gallon	3s. 6d. to 4s.
Coffee	per lb.	6d. to 8d.
Mackarel	per barrel, No. 1	1l. to 1l. 5s.
	No. 2	16s. to 17s. 6d.
	No. 3	10s.
Herrings	do.	11s.

D

NOVA SCOTIA.

51. The subject of emigration and colonization, in connexion with the future improvement of the lower provinces in general, and of Nova Scotia in particular, is purposely omitted. It is too extensive and important to be treated incidentally, and may require and perhaps justify a separate report. In bringing this to a close I must crave your Lordship's pardon for its imperfections. My object has been to present, as an accompaniment to the statistics embraced by the Blue Book, such a picture of the province as persons taking an interest in it at home might find serviceable, and that those who know it best would acknowledge to be accurate.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HARVEY.

NEW
BRUNSWICK.
No. 2.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

(No. 38.)

No. 2.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE, C.B.,
to Earl GREY.

St. John, New Brunswick,
April 8, 1848.
(Received May 4, 1848.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to enclose to your Lordship the Blue Book for 1847.

The ordinary details classed under the respective heads, to which I have fully adverted in former reports, do not call for many observations.

In regard to the provincial finances, on the due administration of which depend so materially the interests of the province, an important change was made in the last year, by the passing of an Act (10 Vict. c. 87) for repealing, under authority of the imperial statute, the Customs' duties heretofore imposed by statute (8 and 9 Vict. c. 93) for the regulation of trade, and paid over to the province, after deducting certain charges for the Customs' establishment. This Act, which was confirmed by Her Majesty in Council, came into operation on the 1st instant, and under authority of an Act passed in the late session,* the provincial establishment has been re-organized for the collection of the entire customs revenue now raised under local Acts, and a limited establishment has been formed by Her Majesty's Government for the purposes of control, and to insure the due observance of imperial statutes which are still in force.

From the schedule of duties (at page 3) it will be seen that the provincial customs revenue was derived in 1847 from duties of import which did not materially differ from the duties levied in the preceding year. In 1846 and 1847, owing to the partial failure of the crops, wheat and other grains, flour and meal, were exempted from duty.

In consequence of the repeal of the imperial duties, a scale of duties has been imposed in the present year, which do not discriminate between the goods imported from different foreign countries, but which are higher than those imposed on goods imported from Great Britain and British colonies.

Having for a long period advocated the liberation of the colonial trade, I hope that the great benefit which the mercantile interests would derive from free and unrestricted commerce will not be impeded by a system of duties at variance with the principle. And I must observe, that such liberation of the provincial trade, facilitating a profitable intercourse with such near and industrious neighbours as the people of the United States, would, as I conceive, tend to strengthen the connexion between Great Britain and her colonies; since the colonists, in acquiring all the advantages which would be open to them from such an intercourse, would be the more strongly confirmed in the sense they have always entertained of the great benefits which they enjoy as British subjects. In the enumeration (page 5) of the articles exempted from the operation of the import duties, will be found various marine stores, steam-engines and machinery for mills, which are numerous throughout the province.

Under the head of revenue and expenditure (page 19), it will be observed that the export lumber duty produced, in 1847, 15,897*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*, but from the check to the timber trade it may be expected to decline in the present year. The impe-

* Transmitted with my Despatch, No. 33, of the 6th instant.

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rial duties now repealed amounted to 28,721*l.* 14*s.* The revenue amounted in all to 112,793*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.*, and the expenditure, including the arrears of the provincial debt, for which special provision has been made, was 185,911*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.*, leaving an arrear of expenditure carried over to the current year of 73,117*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*, of which 63,033*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.* was the arrear in 1846. So far as the accounts of the present year have been made up, the appropriations appear to have been large and the arrears augmented; the grants for roads do not exceed those of the last year, but 14,511*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.* has been disbursed for relief and support of emigrants, for the repayment of which the emigrant tax is inadequate.

Under the head of expenditure in 1847, will be found the usual appropriations for great and bye roads, the latter distributed in a multitude of small grants, open to the objections which I have frequently taken occasion to point out; and having recommended an amendment of the system in the present year to the Assembly, to whom I communicated your Lordship's observations on the system, I have the satisfaction of being able to state, that although the same plan of detailed appropriation has been adhered to without the previous inspection and survey of the roads, an important alteration has been made in the Road Act, by which all persons who may hereafter be appointed by the Government to expend road money, as Supervisors, Commissioners, &c., are required to give bonds for the faithful application of all monies entrusted to them. And in addition to the usual account and vouchers which, under the regulations adopted in 1841, are rendered to the Auditor-General, each Commissioner is required to file with the clerk of the peace of the county in which the roads are situated, a duplicate of his accounts, which are to be open to public inspection without any fee. I have before had occasion to notice that the statute labour is applied to the roads under authority of county Commissioners. In the year in which public appropriations were withheld, it was rendered more effective. By increasing, therefore, the vigilance of the inhabitants of counties in the improvement of their roads, and enabling them to expose the abuses which have prevailed, some further check will be applied to those abuses.

It was my wish to have provided, by law, for the grants being made to parishes, in order that the appointment of numerous Commissioners might be obviated, but this has not been done, as the arrangement may be made by the Executive; and I enclose* a minute which I have recorded in Council on the subject, which will lead, as I hope, to the adoption of this improvement, and that a system of local rating in commutation of statute labour may be the foundation of an improved system.

The practice of advancing funds on account of tolls and rates for the construction of roads has not yet been introduced, from the opposition made by the people to local taxation; but many expensive bridges have been made at the public charge, on which tolls might profitably be established.

The grant of so large a proportion of the public revenue for the opening of roads and construction of bridges (see note on margin) has originated in the nature of the country, clothed as it is with dense forests, and intersected in every part by numerous rivers and streams, rendering it impossible to promote the settlement of the lands until they are thus laid open to the settler. It is important, therefore, on this account, as well as from higher considerations, to check the local jobbing which the system has had a tendency to introduce, and which the influence of the Government has been applied to counteract. I consider that the management of the roads, where public appropriations are applied to them, ought to be intrusted to the superintendence of the Surveyor-General's department.

It will be observed that 10,221*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* was appropriated in 1847 for a lunatic asylum, and a spacious building has been erected for this purpose in the neighbourhood of this city, a monument of the humane liberality of the provincial Legislature.

As the revenue from the sale of forest timber is collected, for the most part, as an export duty, which yielded in the last year 15,897*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.* (page 20), the territorial revenue, deducting this amount, did not exceed 10,365*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.* (page 36); and if settlers were allowed to liquidate the charges for land purchases by labour upon the roads, taking certificates from road Commissioners of the sums due for effective contracts performed by them, the revenue would be improved, and the settlement of the country greatly accelerated.

The most important enactments of the Legislature in the year 1847 (page 56), were the Acts passed to facilitate the construction of certain railways, and for the improvement of the parish schools, by providing for their inspection, and for the

In 1846,
29,003*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.*
In 1847,
34,525*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*

* Enclosure referred to, not received.

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training of teachers, a system which has been introduced under favourable circumstances in the present year.

Of the Council and Assemblies, an important alteration has been made by the introduction, in part, of the system introduced in Canada on the union of these provinces. The Executive Councillors have for some time held their offices subject to a virtual tenure of responsibility to the Assembly; but a more important change has been effected in the present year by the recognition in the Assembly of the principle of associating the heads of civil departments in the Council, subject to the resignation of their seats on the retirement of the Council.

It is to be regretted that the system is unaccompanied by Executive control over the provincial finances, and the complete separation of administrative from legislative functions in the Assembly, an object of great importance to effect, as well as the recognition of a system of local municipal government, which has hitherto been restricted to the city of St. John. In the present year, an Act has been passed to provide for the incorporation of the city of Fredericton, and which I hope will lead to the extension of this constitutional principle to other parts of the province.

A great improvement was effected in the last year in the emigration department by the appointment by Her Majesty's Government of an emigration officer at St. John. The sufferings and mortality of the emigrants during the summer season, which imposed on the province a heavy debt, has led, with the sanction of Her Majesty's Government, to some important changes in the system, in the passing of an Act to provide for the due regulation of ships arriving with emigrants; and another Act has been passed for the care of the orphan children of deceased emigrants, and the preservation of the money and effects left by their parents.

Provision has been made for a census to be taken of the population in 1849, which may be generally estimated at more than 200,000. By the returns of 1840 (page 134) the numbers were 156,062.

By the ecclesiastical returns (page 137) it will be seen that the population is classed under various denominations of Christians, who, for the most part, support their churches by voluntary contributions.

The monetary system of the province (page 149) is still unreformed; and unless a general measure should be adopted by Her Majesty's Government, with the authority of Parliament, any partial revision of the present defective currency would be unsatisfactory, and indeed impracticable.

The advantages which have attended such a revision in the United States afford an example of the benefits which the colonies would derive from an assimilation of the currencies of the colonies with that of the United Kingdom. The limited accommodation afforded by the provincial banks tends to retard the progress of the country.

Of the trade of the province it will be seen (page 157) that the total value of the imports in 1847 was 1,125,388*l.*, and of exports 696,399*l.*, the reduction of which may be ascribed to the check given to the timber trade, and to the sale of new ships in England during the last year. The number of ships entering the ports in 1847 were 3123 of 427,880 tons, and navigated by 19,870 men; and the number which cleared outwards were 3102, containing 478,171 tons, and navigated by 21,277 men.

The shipping are, for the most part, navigated by British seamen. The attention given of late years to the lumber and shipping trade has led to the decline of the fisheries, which might, if duly encouraged, have become a nursery for seamen and the source of an extensive and lucrative commerce.

The agricultural return (page 178) has been made up in more detail than in former years; and it will be seen that certain counties have been found more favourable for the production of wheat than others. The potato crop has heretofore been greatly relied on, and potatoes have, in plentiful years, been largely exported to the United States, and are ordinarily used in the feeding of stock. The failure of this crop in the last two years has encouraged the raising of grain, for which the soils are well adapted. Oats are a certain and productive crop, and are largely cultivated. The spring wheats have been usually cultivated, but the introduction of the winter wheats would be attended with advantage where the summers are short, and they have been found to succeed in some situations. The feeding of stock is attended with expense in a climate subject to winters of such long duration.

Before concluding this report it may be proper for me to offer some remarks upon the state of crime and the means of correction and prevention (page 189). In the last year some disturbances occurred in different parts of the province, arising from party divisions and disputes, but which were fortunately arrested by

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the vigilance of the magistrates, and the firm and impartial spirit in which the laws have been administered by the Courts.

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The establishment of a police force in St. John and Portland has been attended with great benefit.

The provincial Penitentiary has been frequently improved, although it is still defective in the means of carrying out an efficient system of secondary punishment. This object will demand the attention of the Government and the Legislature; for, although crimes of magnitude are comparatively rare, some atrocious ones have recently occurred, which, from the exposed situation of the people in the rural districts, have a tendency to create alarm. The county gaols are generally defective in construction, and are without the means of providing even for the employment of vagrants.

The desire generally entertained for the progressive amelioration of the criminal law renders it also necessary that the system of secondary punishments should be efficient, and that the means should be provided for its due enforcement with a view to the prevention of crime and the reformation of offenders.

At the close of an administration of seven years it is due to this province to bear my testimony to the value of it, as one of the most important possessions of the Crown. The spirit with which its hardy and persevering inhabitants have, in 60 years, triumphed over the difficulties opposed to them in the settlement of such a country, and accumulated so large an amount of agricultural, maritime, and commercial wealth, is an earnest of the success which will attend their future labours, aided by the co-operation of British enterprise and capital. In the present advanced state of the arts, and the recent triumph of skill and science, which have contributed so largely to unite the families of mankind and to diffuse to the remotest quarters the blessings of civilization and improvement, the progress of this fine province cannot fail to be accelerated, and its connection with the United Kingdom strengthened and cemented, a result which will assuredly be productive of great reciprocal benefits.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, I have, &c.,
&c. &c. (Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

PRINCE
EDWARD
ISLAND.
No. 3.

(No. 35.)

No. 3.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor Sir DONALD CAMPBELL, Bart.
to Earl GREY.

Government House, Prince Edward Island,
May 8, 1848.

MY LORD,

(Received May 23, 1848.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book for the year 1847.

And as I assumed the Government of this island only a few days before the close of that year, I hope your Lordship will be pleased to dispense with my offering any observation upon the contents of the book.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) DONALD CAMPBELL,
The Right Hon. Earl Grey, Lieut.-Governor,
&c. &c. &c.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

NEWFOUND-
LAND.

No. 4.

(No. 19.)

No. 4.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir J. GASPARD LE MARCHANT to
Earl GREY.

Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland,
May 4, 1848.

MY LORD,

(Received May 23, 1848.)

HEREWITH I have the honour to forward to your Lordship the Blue Book for the year 1847, at the same time accompanied with my report upon the state of the colony throughout that year, as also its present condition and its future prospects.

In laying before your Lordship my remarks and observations on those subjects that appear to me to be of the most material interest to the welfare of this colony, I have thought it most advisable to adhere to the plan adopted in the compilation of these statistical returns—the division of the several subjects into separate sections.

Population.—Section 1.

As no tables are at present kept in the colony exhibiting the births, marriages, and deaths in each year, it is impossible to ascertain the exact number of the inhabitants of this island, and therefore no accurate returns can be prepared showing the relative numbers employed in the fisheries, trades, and other occupations of the people.

The last census was taken in the year 1845, and the returns herewith sent are merely a transcript of those for that year.

At the meeting of the provincial Legislature, I hope to be able to remedy, at least to some extent, this defect in the returns by the introduction of a law requiring exact returns of births, marriages, and deaths to be kept in each district, and periodically transmitted to the office of the Colonial Secretary.

These returns, however, will only embrace that portion of the island lying within what is termed the electoral divisions, as there is no resident holding a civil or other appointment under the Crown on the whole of the western, northern, and a portion of the eastern coasts, commonly denominated the French shore, nor likewise on that portion of the Labrador coast within the limits of the government of Newfoundland. The number of British subjects resident in these parts has been estimated at about 4000, but I have been led to believe that that number has, within the last few years, very considerably increased.

According to the census of 1845, the returns of the population amounted to 96,295; and the accompanying tables, compiled from the returns furnished in that year, will, at one view, exhibit an abstract of the entire population of the several districts, divided according to their sexes, ages, religious denominations, as well as their occupations, &c.

Town of St. John's.

During the past year, great exertions have been made by the inhabitants of the town of St. John's to repair their losses, occasioned by the fire of the 9th June of the preceding year. New lines of streets have been laid out on an improved plan, both as to width and regularity, and intersected at suitable distances with cross streets or fire-breaks. In several quarters of the town, new buildings have been commenced, and the works carried on with great spirit and energy.

In the lower street, Water-street, on the side commanding the frontage of the harbour, many handsome shops and substantial warehouses of stone and brick have been erected at very considerable expense by the merchants, and this part of the town wears an improved appearance. Very many of these have been erected at a cost varying from 4000*l.* to 8000*l.*, and the ground rental of the premises lining this frontage averages 3*l.* a square foot.

The Act, however, rendering it compulsory that all buildings in this street,

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as well as the south side of the street lying immediately above it in a parallel line, called Duckworth-street, should be either of brick or stone, does not come into operation till the next year; and it is much to be feared that, at the meeting of the local Legislature, many and strenuous attempts will be made, and those successfully, for a further postponement of this most desirable measure; for, until this has been effected, in consequence of the contiguity of so many wooden buildings, serving only temporary purposes, the danger of a fire again spreading its ravages throughout the city, though to a certain degree lessened, will not be removed.

The public buildings now in the course of erection are the Custom-house, which will be completed in the spring, the colonial building, to be appropriated for the meetings of the local Legislature, and the Protestant cathedral, towards which half the amount raised under the authority of the Queen's letter for the relief of the sufferers by the fire has been appropriated. A site has been fixed on for a market-house, and a sum of money voted for its erection, but, owing to the embarrassed condition of the finances of the colony, as yet no progress has been made with the work.

In the past year I have, out of the funds at the disposal of the Government, formed two large tanks in the centre of the town, affording at all times a copious supply of pure and excellent water, and likewise, being frost proof, of the greatest utility in the event of accidents by fire occurring in their neighbourhood.

At one of the chief outlets of the town, commanding the frontage of the river, and forming the upper part of the harbour, a public walk, affording a place of recreation to all classes, as well as contributing to the health of the inhabitants, has been commenced, and in the course of the ensuing season will be completed.

The crowded state of the burial-grounds in this town has likewise occupied my most serious attention; and for the purpose of abating, if not entirely removing, this evil, so loudly complained of by the inhabitants generally, I have purchased a piece of ground without the town of nine acres in extent, and intend dividing and appropriating it as a cemetery for parties of all religious denominations, in proportion to the number composing the several creeds, and shall use my best endeavours for the closing of those within the town.

Two Companies, the one for supplying the town with gas, the other for the supply of water, have been incorporated by Acts of the local Legislature, the former in the year 1844, whose works are completed and in full operation; the latter in the year 1846, whose pipes are now being laid down, and it is presumed the town will have the benefit of the undertaking in the course of the spring.

As no assessments are in force for any local or fiscal purposes, it is impossible to form any accurate estimate of the value of either household or other property in this town; the rental, however, of Water and Duckworth streets has been by competent judges computed at between 35,000*l.* and 40,000*l.* a-year.

The accompanying return, marked No. 2, will more accurately show the classification of the population of this town, the number of their houses, warehouses, &c., as well as the foreign vessels trading at this port, and the extent to which the fisheries are prosecuted by the capital of the island.

The sanitary condition of the colony during the past year has been influenced to a considerable extent by a malignant species of typhus fever, which has arisen from the importation of vast bodies of emigrants from different parts of Ireland. The fever thus introduced upon the arrival of these emigrants appeared in the first instance to be of a mild form, but it soon assumed a graver character.

Precautionary measures were immediately adopted by the Government to prevent, as far as possible, this infectious disorder spreading amongst the densely crowded population of this town. Boards of health were established, and health-wardens appointed for the several districts. Similar measures were also adopted in other of the larger settlements. In addition to the Hospital of St. John's, another building was taken and converted into a fever hospital for the sole reception of this class of patients.

In the three months, June, July, and August, the number of persons admitted into the Auxiliary Fever Hospital of St. John's was 126, of whom 23 died. The expense of this establishment and medical attendants amounted to 84*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.*

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The sanitary regulations of the Government were, I am happy to say, eminently successful, for the disorder was, but with few exceptions, confined to these unfortunate emigrants; and at the same time they allayed the apprehensions of the people, who were thrown into a great state of alarm at the breaking out of this pestilential malady.

The climate of Newfoundland has been very generally misrepresented, for it is a remarkable as also a well-ascertained fact that scarcely a more healthy climate is anywhere to be found, and there is no country where the inhabitants enjoy better health, or where, notwithstanding the fatigue and hardships to which a fisherman's life is subjected, more of them attain to longevity.

Ecclesiastical.

This colony, previous to the year 1839, formed a part of the diocese of Nova Scotia; in that year it was, with the Bermudas, erected into a separate see, and the Right Rev. A. G. Spencer, D.D., appointed the first lord bishop, who, on being translated in 1844 to Jamaica, was succeeded by the Right Rev. Edward Field, D.D.

There are neither parishes nor rectors, properly so called; the Protestant episcopal clergymen are all missionaries, appointed and paid by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. The bishop alone derives any portion of his income from the State, a salary of 500*l.*, drawn from the North American clergy estimate, being annually paid to him.

The establishment consists of 32 clergymen, and there are 64 churches in the island.

In the year 1846 the following resolution of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel was, through their secretary, notified to the bishop, and by him to his clerical brethren and members of his congregation:—"After 1st July, 1849, the bishop's salary from the Society to be reduced to 250*l.*, and that of every missionary then on the list to a sum not exceeding 100*l.* Such sums to be continued on the condition of what is reduced by the Society being made up by the people. What is saved by the Society to be expended on the maintenance of additional clergy."

In consequence of that resolution a plan has been agreed upon for making a systematic yearly collection throughout the island for the support of the church. The manner in which the bishop and the Church Society propose to carry this plan into execution will be seen from the address which they presented to me on my arrival to assume the government of the colony, a copy of which, together with my reply, is subjoined.

And I am rejoiced to find that they have not been disappointed in the results which they anticipated at the time of the adoption of the measure; for in the Report of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel for the year 1847 it is stated, "That never certainly could any scheme have been proposed at a less favourable moment, for during the first year of its trial the people, who were called upon to make this voluntary assessment, have been subjected to a series of providential losses and calamities in the failure of the fishery, the destruction by fire of a great part of the capital, and the hurricanes which have devastated their coasts. Notwithstanding, however, these severe discouragements, the scheme itself, based as it is on a sound and just principle, bids fair to realize the expectations of those who formed it."

The following address from the Newfoundland Church Society was presented to me on the 5th May, 1847, by the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of the diocese, attended by the resident clergy, &c. :—

"May it please your Excellency,—We, the President, Officers, and Committee of the Newfoundland Church Society avail ourselves of the interview with which your Excellency has honoured us to tender our heartfelt congratulations to your Excellency and Lady Le Marchant on having reached our shores in safety, and respectfully to request your Excellency to take our Society under your immediate patronage.

"Your Excellency, we presume, is aware that the clergy of the Church of England in this colony have for more than a century been almost dependent on the charity of our Christian brethren and dear mother church at home, through the venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. The increased and increasing demands on that Society, coupled with

“ the reasonable expectation that, as our infant church has been so long nursed
 “ and matured, we should now be able and willing to provide for them of our
 “ own household and faith, and especially ‘ for them who labour in the word
 “ and doctrine,’ has led to the resolution to reduce by one-half the bishop’s and
 “ every missionary’s stipend. The sum hereby saved will not, however, be
 “ immediately withdrawn from the colony, but granted to fresh settlements,
 “ unoccupied as yet by our holy church with her blessings and means of grace.

“ This resolution has been formally announced by the secretary of that
 “ Society, and made known by the bishop of the diocese to the clergy and
 “ laity of our communion. It is the desire and object of the Newfoundland
 “ Church Society to take up the burthen, if it is proper so to speak of a great
 “ Christian duty and privilege; and the plan by which we propose to bear it
 “ is by calling on every member of our communion to contribute according to
 “ his ability to the support of the church and clergy, the rich bountifully, the
 “ poor cheerfully, as God may bless and enable them, so that an average sub-
 “ scription of one penny a-week, or one dollar a-year, may be received from
 “ each member of the Church of England in Newfoundland.

“ This plan was cordially approved by your Excellency’s predecessor, Sir
 “ John Harvey, and by him strongly and eloquently recommended at the last
 “ anniversary of the Church Society during his administration of this Govern-
 “ ment. And it is a source of great gratification to us that we can assure your
 “ Excellency that, so far as it has been tried, it has succeeded in a time of
 “ unusual pressure upon the resources of the country to a degree which allows
 “ us to hope and believe, when the necessity of such a demand is more gene-
 “ rally understood, and there is greater power to answer it, may, under your
 “ Excellency’s patronage, and with God’s more needful blessing for his dear
 “ Son’s sake, fulfil the desires and expectations of the friends of scriptural
 “ truth and apostolic order here and at home.

“ EDWARD NEWFOUNDLAND.”

Reply.

“ MY LORD, REVEREND GENTLEMEN, and GENTLEMEN,

“ I ACCEPT with much pleasure the address presented to me this day
 “ by the Newfoundland Church Society, and on behalf of Lady Le Marchant
 “ and my family, I return you their best thanks for your kind congratulations
 “ on our arrival on these shores.

“ The great exertions which have of late years been made by the Church
 “ and Government at home both for establishing bishoprics, and providing a
 “ more numerous body of clergymen, zealous and ardent in the discharge of
 “ their sacred duties should, I am sure you will all agree, be met by corres-
 “ ponding efforts on the part of those to whom they are sent, and I trust that
 “ in all Societies, similar to the one whose address I have now the honour of
 “ receiving, the same plan will be instituted, and may their labours be crowned
 “ with the like success, that is now attending the Newfoundland Church
 “ Society.

“ My Lord, Reverend Gentlemen, and Gentlemen, in accepting the office of
 “ Patron of your Society I do assure you that at all times in the course of my
 “ administration of the affairs of this colony, you will find me both a willing
 “ advocate and a staunch supporter of your interests, and I earnestly hope that
 “ as the season of trial and adversity passes away from the island, all the
 “ members of her church will joyfully and willingly contribute to the utmost
 “ extent of their means to the support of this Society, on whose prosperity the
 “ eternal and temporal welfare of so large a portion of her population depends.

“ J. GASPARD LE MARCHANT.”

Of the reformed religion the class the most numerous, as by far the
 wealthiest, is that of the Church of England; they number 34,281 persons.

Next to them in point of number are the Wesleyans, of whom there are
 14,239 persons; their establishment consists of 13 ministers and they have 34
 places of worship.

The Presbyterians of the Church of Scotland number 576 persons, and they
 have one minister resident in St. John’s and one place of worship.

There is likewise a Congregational Church at St. John’s and one resident
 minister, this section number 394 persons.

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The Roman Catholic population number 46,785 persons, they have 42 churches, and a cathedral at St. John's not yet consecrated. Their establishment consists of a bishop and 24 clergymen. To the bishop formerly a salary of 75*l.* a-year, drawn from the North American Clergy Estimate was assigned, that, however, by a vote of the House of Commons in the past year was raised to 300*l.* The Right Rev. Bishop Fleming is the present Roman Catholic bishop.

Educational.

Under an Act of the local Legislature for the encouragement of education in the colony, elementary schools have been established in every district in the island.

By the provisions of this Act of the Legislature power is given to the Governor to constitute in each district two separate and distinct Boards of Education, Roman Catholic and Protestant; by nominating seven respectable inhabitants of each creed to each section. One resident clergyman of each persuasion being *ex officio* a member of his respective Board, and to their care the regulation and supervision of these schools is entrusted.

The scheme for the government of these schools has been found to be both efficient and satisfactory. The amount expended in furtherance of this object for the year 1847, was 6067*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*

In the present state of the great mass of the population of the colony, consisting, as it does, of simple and hardy fishermen, the subjects of instruction must necessarily be of a simple and elementary nature. For to benefit this class the colonial grant is given, a separate provision having been likewise made for those, whose children require a higher education, it being the intention of the Legislature to provide for the education of the sons and daughters of fishermen; of children that are to live the same simple, laborious, and honourable life as their parents are now doing. For it should not be lost sight of that the instruction must always have reference to the station in life which the child is hereafter to fill, the two-fold scope and object of all education being first to impart to the child that practical knowledge of his duty to God and man, and of the grand purpose of his existence here, which may, through his mercy, ensure his present and eternal happiness, and secondly, to convey that secular instruction which may best enable him to perform the part assigned to him among his fellow men for their mutual good. The present benevolent extension of education may, with the blessing of Divine providence, afford these unappreciable benefits to thousands, who could not otherwise have attained them.

In addition to these government schools the Newfoundland and British North American School Society have established schools in several districts. No accounts of the funds or expenses of these schools are kept in this country; the contributions and subscriptions are for the most part made in England, the management of the affairs of the schools is entirely conducted in England. The salaries of the masters, mistresses, and teachers, are paid out of the funds of the Society, towards which the sum of 500*l.* is annually paid by the Colonial Government under a local Act. These schools are conducted in a manner highly creditable to the Society at home, as well as to those who have the superintendence and management of them here.

The local Government also appropriate the sum of 250*l.* towards the support of the schools in connexion with the Wesleyan Methodists, and the Wesleyan Society contribute 100*l.* a-year in furtherance of the same object.

In St. John's there is an academy under the control of Directors appointed under a Local Act; and the salaries of the two masters are defrayed out of the Colonial Revenue, that of the senior being 300*l.* a-year, and the junior 250*l.*

The Legislature have established and support two grammar schools, one at the town of Harbor Grace, and the other at Carbonear. One master with a salary of 150*l.* is assigned to each school. At Placentia there is a commercial school, the master's salary of 40*l.* a-year is likewise defrayed by the Government.

In the town of St. John's there is an orphan asylum, towards the support of which the Government contribute 150*l.*, and the remainder is defrayed by private subscriptions.

The Presentation Convent School is conducted by five ladies of the nuns of that order without any remuneration, the superior superintending under the Roman Catholic bishop for the time being; this school has, it is said, been supported by Dr. Fleming, the present bishop, with the exception of an annual vote of 200*l.* by the Colonial Legislature from the funds of the colony.

Except at St. John's, and excepting also the schools established by the Newfoundland School Society, and by the Colonial Government, there are scarcely any private schools.

The subjoined return is taken from the census of 1845.

Schools.	Conducted by Masters.		Conducted by Mistresses.	
	Male Pupils.	Female Pupils.	Male Pupils.	Female Pupils.
209	5468	3574	358	866

Judicature and Police.

The Supreme Court is constituted under the imperial statute, 5 Geo. IV., c. 67, and the Royal Charter issued in pursuance of the statute. It is composed of a chief justice at a salary of 1200*l.* sterling, and two assistant judges, each at a salary of 700*l.* sterling, secured by Act of the Legislature. The Court has jurisdiction throughout the whole government of Newfoundland and its dependencies, and on the seas and banks to which vessels resort for carrying on the fishery, and has all criminal and civil jurisdiction, as fully and amply to all intents and purposes, as the Queen's Bench, Common Pleas, Exchequer, and High Court of Chancery in England, and is also a Court of Oyer and Terminer and General Gaol Delivery. The Court sits only at St. John's, the capital of the island, at such times as the Governor by his proclamation may appoint. The terms rarely exceed two, one in spring and one in autumn, for a period of about three or four weeks each. All civil actions in which the matter in dispute exceeds forty shillings are tried by jury. The practice on the common law side is in general the same as that of the Court of Queen's Bench, modified by rules adapted to the circumstances of the colony. The practice on the equity side is governed by a code of rules, subject to which modification, the practice of the English Court of Chancery prevails. In prosecutions for breaches of the laws relating to trade and revenue, the Supreme Court proceeds according to the rules and practice of the Courts of Vice Admiralty. This Court alone, is also invested with the power of granting probates of wills and letters of administration, and with the control of the persons and property of infants and lunatics. An appeal lies from the Supreme Court to the Queen in Council, where the matter in dispute exceeds 500*l.* The officers of the Court are the chief clerk and registrar, at a salary, in lieu of fees, of 350*l.* sterling, (lately reduced from 500*l.*) who is also by virtue of his office, Registrar of Deeds for the central district, appointed by warrant under the Royal Sign Manual. A crier at a salary of 60*l.* sterling appointed by the chief justice for the time being, both salaries voted annually by the Assembly.

Circuit Courts.—The island is divided into three judicial districts, the central, northern, and southern, within which, respectively, there is a superior Court of Record, styled the Circuit Court, held by the chief or one of the assistant judges of the Supreme Court. This Court has the same jurisdiction, powers, and authority within the district as the Supreme Court throughout the whole island, save in cases of treason, and capital felonies, and in prosecutions for breach of the revenue laws.

The Circuit Court for the central district (or district of St. John's) sits at the town of St. John's only. Its terms generally precede those of the Supreme Court in spring and autumn, and last for periods of about four weeks, and its practice is the same as that of the Supreme Court.

The Circuit Court for the northern circuit sits twice in the year at Harbor Grace for periods of about four weeks in spring and autumn; and once a year during the months of September and October at the following places, viz.:—Twillingate, Fogo, Greenspond, Bonavista, and Trinity, for periods of a week or 10 days at the respective places.

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The Circuit Court for the southern district sits once in the year only at the following places, during the months of September and October, viz., Harbor Briton, Burin, Placentia, St. Mary's, and Ferryland.

The terms and places of holding the Circuit Courts are annually fixed by the Governor's proclamation. The practice of the northern and southern Circuit Courts is governed by a code of rules adapted to the state and circumstances of the outports. An appeal lies from the Circuit Courts to the Supreme Court in matters exceeding 50*l.* sterling. Each of these Courts has a clerk, (who is also the Registrar of Deeds within the district,) appointed by warrant and under the Royal Sign Manual at a salary of 200*l.*, and fees amounting in the northern district to 150*l.* or 180*l.*, and in the southern district to less than 50*l.*

Courts of General and Quarter Sessions are also held at St. John's and the principal outports, the sittings of which are regulated by the Governor's proclamation. The English Criminal Law being in force in the colony, these Courts and the magistrates have (so far as the law can be applied) jurisdiction and powers similar to those of the quarter sessions and justices of the peace in England. Trials, however, by jury, in criminal cases, with occasional exceptions at St. John's, always take place in the superior Courts. The Courts of Session have also a summary jurisdiction in the recovery of debts for sums not exceeding 40*s.*; in disputes relating to the curing of fish to the amount of 5*l.*, and concerning the wages of seamen and fishermen, hiring of boats, and the supply of bait to an unlimited amount. These Courts are presided over by stipendiary magistrates, of whom there are three at St. John's at salaries of 300*l.* sterling each, two at Harbor Grace at salaries of 180*l.* and 150*l.*, and one at each of the 13 other outports at salaries varying from 100*l.* to 150*l.*; the total cost being 2930*l.* sterling, voted annually by the Assembly.

Sheriffs.—There are three sheriffs, one for each of the judicial districts, at salaries of 750*l.* for the central, 300*l.* for the northern, and 200*l.* for the southern district, secured by an Act of the Legislature. The sheriffs are appointed annually by the Governor.

Clerks of the Peace.—There are 11 clerks of the peace, one at St. John's at a salary of 300*l.*, one at Harbor Grace at a salary of 150*l.*, and one respectively at Brigus, Ferryland, Placentia, Burin, Harbor Briton, Trinity, Bonavista, Carbonear, and Twillingate, at salaries from 35*l.* to 60*l.* without fees. Their salaries, with the exception of that of the clerk of the peace for St. John's, are voted annually by the Assembly. The clerks of the peace are appointed by the Governor.

Constables.—There are, at various places throughout the island, in all, 66 paid constables, at an annual stipend varying from 12*l.* to 45*l.*, with the exception of the high constable at St. John's who has 80*l.*, and at a total cost of 1394*l.* sterling voted annually by the Assembly. These are all the constables of the island, there being none who serve gratuitously.

Gaolers.—There are six gaolers, one at St. John's at a salary of 150*l.*, one at Harbor Grace at 90*l.*, and one respectively at Ferryland, Placentia, Burin, and Trinity, at 25*l.* each, (in lieu of fees,) voted annually by the Assembly. There being no local rates or assessments in the different districts, the whole expense of the administration of justice, support of the poor, and for other public services and works, is defrayed out of the public revenue.

Labrador.—In pursuance of the power conferred upon the Governor by the 18th section of the Judicature Act, (5th Geo. IV., c. 67,) a Court of civil jurisdiction was established for those parts of the Labrador within the limits of this Government, presided over by one judge at a salary of 700*l.* sterling, and having, as officers, a clerk and registrar at a salary of 150*l.*, and a sheriff at a salary of 100*l.* This Court heard and determined in a summary way all suits and complaints of a civil nature arising within the limits of its jurisdiction, and for this purpose, visited all the different harbours on the coast once a year during the months of August, September, and October. An appeal lay from the decisions of this Court to the Supreme Court of Newfoundland, in matters at issue above 50*l.*, and in cases affecting the title to lands and tenements, rights of fishery, annual rents, and matters where rights in future might be bound.

This Court was in existence from the year 1826 to 1834, when it was abolished by the local Act 4 Wm. IV., c. 20, which repealed so much of the Judicature Act as provided for its establishment.

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Since 1834 the Labrador coast has been entirely without any provision for the local administration of justice, and although a very extensive fishery is annually carried on there by the inhabitants of this island, and there are, moreover, many permanent settlers, there is not even a single resident justice of the peace.

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Agriculture.—Section 2.

It may be said that the cultivation of the soil made little or no progress in Newfoundland until after the peace with France in 1814.

The sole occupation of the resident inhabitants was confined to the fishery, an opinion generally prevailed, that the soil and climate raised impassable barriers to agriculture. It was further considered, that the encouragement of settlement and agriculture, even if it were practicable, would be injurious to the interests of the fishery, in consequence every obstruction and impediment was thrown in its way. It was an offence against the laws of the fishery to clear, to inhabit, or to cultivate the waste lands of Newfoundland. Before that period there may have been some few gardens for vegetables and a few spots of land cleared for raising potatoes. Farming, as an occupation, or as a means of employment or subsistence, was unknown.

The first relaxation was made in the olden system regarding the land in 1815 by Governor Sir Richard Keats; he was authorized to make small grants of land limited from two to four acres. Many lots of ground now so valuable in the vicinity of St. John's, were granted during his government. From 1818 to 1824, Governor Sir Charles Hamilton, the first resident Governor, made some larger grants of land and on more favourable terms.

Sir Thomas Cochrane commenced his government in 1825. Immediately on his arrival he entered warmly into the subject of the agricultural improvements of the colony; made liberal grants of land from 500 to 250 acres. During his government, the first main road that was opened in the island, the road from St. John's to Portugal Cove, was projected and completed. Much land was cleared and very considerable progress made in agricultural improvement.

His Excellency Captain Prescott followed in his footsteps, he gave every facility and every encouragement in his power to the general clearance and cultivation of the land. Through his recommendation to Her Majesty's Government, much of the obstructions that remained to the obtaining of land was removed, and it may be said, that during his Government, hundreds of poor industrious persons were located on land which now affords a comfortable support to themselves and families. The large amount of appropriations, during his government, for the formation of roads, greatly facilitated the progress of agriculture; not only the margins of the various roads branching from St. John's, but likewise in Conception Bay, Trinity Bay, Bonavista, Ferryland, Prepassey, St. Mary's, Placentia, Burin, and in all the inhabited districts of the island, no matter where, a road was opened; cultivation and population was certain to follow in its course.

During the administration of his successor Sir John Harvey, large votes were recommended to the Assembly for roads and bridges. These public improvements rapidly progressed, as a matter of course cultivation and settlement followed. The land, particularly in the neighbourhood of St. John's, doubled in value. Agriculture became a recognized and most important branch of industry, a source of employment and subsistence to a large portion of the people.

At present it will be scarcely considered necessary to adduce arguments or proofs as to the capability of the soil of Newfoundland for agricultural purposes, as a general principle it may be safely laid down that in no case where due skill and industry have been employed, have they failed to repay the husbandman's toil. Farms have been successfully cultivated in the districts of St. John's, Trinity, Bonavista, Conception Bay, St. Mary's, Placentia, Burin, Fortune Bay. And in every part of the island, wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, turnips, have been produced of the best quality.

It may be said without fear of contradiction that in no instance, when industry and skill have been used in clearing and cultivating the soil of Newfoundland, has it failed to make an ample recompence. The most successful cultivator is the man who works himself. The cultivators of small portions of ground were truly the pioneers, who were first in making inroads on the wil-

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derness. The judicious expenditure of capital will also meet a profitable and certain return.

When it is taken into consideration the difficulties and prejudices that the cultivator of the soil had to contend with, the surprise should be, not the slow progress that agriculture has made, but that so much has been accomplished. Necessity more than choice drove the inhabitants to the cultivation of the soil. As long as the fisheries made such profitable returns, and enabled the fisherman to support himself and family for the whole year from the fruits of a few months' employment in the fishery, he never would voluntarily turn to the laborious task of clearing the wilderness. The unequal competition of the French and the Americans reduced the profits in the fishery, it scarcely paid its own expenses. The only alternative left to the inhabitants was either to emigrate or to cultivate the soil. Whatever proportion of the fisheries that remain to the British has been preserved by the auxiliary support which the inhabitants were enabled to obtain from the cultivation of the soil.

The cost of grubbing up and cultivating the waste land of this country must necessarily vary much according to the quality and condition of the land itself and its locality.

That in the vicinity of the town of St. John's has more of rocks and stones on the surface than in some other parts of the district, and the cost of grubbing, clearing rocks and stones, burning stumps and roots, ploughing, harrowing and manuring for a crop cannot be safely calculated at less than 13*l*. sterling per acre, out of which may be deducted the net value of a fair crop of oats, potatoes, or turnips, which the land will yield the first year from the manure and burnt ashes. In some other parts of the district land may be doubtless grubbed up and cultivated at much less expense, being comparatively free from stones, and requiring little labour previously to the plough being used. It may be observed that the land in this portion of the island is, generally speaking, of a light gravelly nature, easy to work and cultivate, soon warming with the heat of the summer, and quick in forcing forward the crops when planted. On the other hand it appears to require a liberal supply of manure to put it in condition, and from its porous nature, repeated applications of manure are desirable until the land is laid down to grass, which yields crops of hay, both of great abundance, as also of excellent quality. When again ploughed, it is generally much improved in texture and quality, and will carry grain crops well, especially if a small supply of lime be harrowed into the surface, for this latter article is at present too dear to admit of the free use of it as in England. At no distant period it may be hoped we shall have plenty of lime brought from other parts of the country, where it exists in great abundance.

The grain crops of last year, though in some instances sown late, all answered remarkably well. It is not easy to obtain exact details that can be relied on, but I have been assured on authority that can be relied on, that on one of the farms in the vicinity of this town, two bushels and two gallons of bear barley were, on the 19th May, sown upon three-quarters of an acre of potato land, and from it were threshed 42 bushels of excellent quality, being at the rate of 56 bushels per acre. Of which 30 bushels were sold at 5*s*. currency per bushel for malting and brewing, and the crop paid the party better than any crop grown on an equal space of land for many years. Wheat has also been known on another farm in this neighbourhood to produce at the rate of 50 bushels per acre, and this is a heavy crop for any country. This large produce may be in a great degree attributed to the repeated applications of fish and other manures to the previous crops of potatoes.

In the past year, 1796 acres of land have been sold, the price at auction averaging about 10*s*. per acre. The number of separate grants, into which these lands were divided, amounted to 176.

My time and most vigilant attention has been occupied of late in the promotion and encouragement of the cultivation of the soil, and no endeavours have on my part been spared in inducing the people of this colony to raise crops of the different kinds of grain, so as to provide a substitute for the potato, heretofore the sole article of subsistence of the lower classes, and which can now never be safely relied on as a means of sustenance to a large population after its repeated failures here as well as elsewhere.

Large supplies of seed (wheat, barley, and oats), have been imported by the Government, as well as vegetable and various sorts of garden seeds; these will

be distributed in the course of this spring amongst the cultivators of land in the colony; and a committee of gentlemen is appointed, to whom such distribution has been entrusted. In the hope of adding a stimulus and an encouragement to the further cultivation of the soil, as also of inducing the working farmers to avail themselves of these opportunities, prizes have been offered for the clearance and planting of new virgin land; as also for the best crops of wheat, barley, and oats.

Two mills, adapted for the grinding of meal as well as grain, have likewise, with the assistance of Government, been established; the one in this town, and the other in Conception Bay.

By a steady perseverance on the part of the people in the prosecution of measures such as these, abundance and plenty will again be restored to this island, and the more general extension of agriculture will, I am confident, be attended with vast benefits to the present and future generations of Newfoundland.

Horticultural.—It has been frequently remarked by strangers as well as residents that the culinary vegetables grown here are not inferior to the best of their kinds in Europe, doubtless owing to the rapidity with which vegetation takes place, when the frigid temperature of winter is dispelled by the genial heat of summer weather, a change which, some seasons, occurs very suddenly.

All ordinary garden vegetables are grown with as little trouble as in England. Among those most commonly cultivated are lettuce, endive, radish, asparagus, seakale, beets, turnips, cabbages, cauliflowers, peas, beans, both French and broad, all of which attain maturity with common care, although in very few instances have they much of that skill and good management bestowed upon them, which in gardens in England appears almost a matter of course.

Melons and cucumbers are grown every year in slight hotbeds, and the latter may be transplanted from the seed-bed to the open air, where they will generally produce abundantly. Turnips, cabbages, and all of the Brassica tribe, have in the early stages numerous enemies in the turnip fly, caterpillars, &c., but independently of this the climate and soil are fitted to produce large crops of them.

It may be observed that many of the perennial and other herbaceous plants of Britain bear the severity of the Newfoundland winter well, among which may be mentioned the polyanthus, pansy, and sweet William, also pinks and carnations generally, and among bulbous roots all kinds of lily, even the white lily, tulip, hyacinths, &c., are rarely known to fail though kept in the ground all winter.

Of fruit trees, those of the more hardy kinds, and which produce their fruit at an early season, of course answer best. The climate is well adapted to gooseberries and currants of every variety, and they produce abundant crops almost invariably. The insect tribe alone seems inimical to them, and the trees are frequently divested of their foliage by caterpillars, except in low or moist situations, where these trees generally succeed best. Cherries of most kinds also bear the climate and produce well, but the Kentish and Mayduke may be relied on as standing the climate and bearing fruit as well as in England.

With respect to apples, pears, and plums, the early varieties only may be considered as well adapted. Plums of many kinds and damsons have been grown for many years in Conception Bay as well as in St. John's. The earliest kinds ripen, and the late sorts answer for culinary purposes. Raspberries and strawberries succeed as well here as in any country; they are, in fact, indigenous, and are found wild in considerable quantities. The cultivated kinds rarely if ever fail to yield fruit, and the strawberries are remarkable for abundant produce and fine flavour.

Fisheries.—Section 3.

Seal Fishery.—The capture of the seal for the sake of its skin, and the oil that is produced from its fat, has been an object to the inhabitants from its earliest settlement, either by means of nets along its shores, or by vessels proceeding to the fields of ice that annually drift from the arctic regions.

No date can be assigned when nets were first introduced, but the fishery by this means was carried on to some considerable extent on that part of the eastern coast, which was ceded to the French at the close of the last war, but

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now very few establishments exist in Newfoundland ; but there are still some of considerable extent on the coasts of Labrador, and in the straits of Belle Isle.

The prosecution of the seal fishery by vessels is quite of a modern date, it being only 54 years ago that the first vessel sailed on this expedition, and it has in this short period arrived at its present extent, and now gives employment to near 11,000 men, actually engaged in catching the seal, and employs 340 vessels, of the aggregate burthen of 29,800 tons, new measurement. In 1793 a merchant of St. John's commenced it by fitting out two small vessels, of about 45 tons each, which sailed the first week in April, and were very successful, one returning with over 800 seals, and the other with not quite so many.

In the year 1796 four vessels sailed from St. John's, and a few from Conception Bay ; originally the vessels engaged in this fishery were of a small description, even open boats that were employed in the cod fishery of 30 tons, and even less, were sent out on this hazardous voyage, and a few rarely exceeded 50 tons, with a crew of 11 men, but they gradually increased in size, and the number of hands sent in them. In fact there was for a long period a prejudice of employing vessels over 60 tons, as they were considered too large and too heavy to prosecute the fishery successfully ; this prejudice existed even so late as the year 1825, when two vessels of 120 tons each were built in Conception Bay expressly for the seal fishery. Both of these vessels were very fortunate the first time of going out ; one bringing home in the spring of the year 1826, 6666 seals, and the other 5828 seals.

This seems to have set the question as regarded size at rest, and from that period the old class vessels, of small tonnage, have been gradually superseded by those of a larger class. The vessels now engaged in the seal fishery are many of them over 115 tons, new measurement ; or 140, old measurement ; very few, indeed, now going out so small as 80 tons, new measurement.

This fishery is now of very great importance to the inhabitants of this colony, for besides employing 11,000 men in actually catching the seals, it gives employment to almost every class of mechanics, as well as common labourers, in manufacturing the seals, the value of which, in the spring of the past year, exceeded 214,000*l*. Its great value may be well imagined, when the shortness of the period of this fishery is considered ; these large sums being realized within the space of six weeks.

The usual time of leaving for the ice is from the 1st to the 10th of March, if the vessels can get out, though formerly no vessel thought of leaving before the 25th of March to the 10th of April.

The crews are shipped on shares, each man being directly interested in the quantity of seals caught ; they pay the owner a sum varying from 10*s*. to 35*s*. for being allowed to proceed in the vessel, which is called berth money ; each man has to find a gun, or to pay the hire of one, and also has to find 25 sticks of firewood for fuel while on the voyage.

The owner of the vessel receives one-half the seals brought home in the vessel for fitting her out, &c., with all necessary material ; the other half is taken by the crew, and equally divided among them according to the number, the owner receiving the master's share, who is paid by the owner 4*d*. to 6*d*. for each seal the vessel brings in, or 1*s*. to 1*s*. 3*d*. per cwt., according to the agreement that may be made between them previous to the commencement of the voyage.

The vessels in Conception Bay are insured in mutual societies, that is, a certain number of owners enter into an agreement with each other that they will pay all losses that may occur to each other's vessels during the season. There are two of this description now in Conception Bay, one at Harbor Grace, the other at Brigus. Each one has a secretary, who keeps the records of the Society, for which he is paid 15*s*. for each vessel insured. There are also three surveyors to inspect the vessels previous to proceeding on the voyage, and to see they are properly equipped to encounter its dangers ; they are paid a small sum for their services. The insurance in the Brigus society has been very light indeed, only five vessels having been lost since the year 1833, whereas the Harbor Grace Society has been very unfortunate lately, the losses being very heavy. The vessels of St. John's are insured in a society, and a certain premium is charged each vessel according to her class.

NUMBER of VESSELS sailing for the SEAL FISHERY, Spring, 1847.

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	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Men.	Seals caught, Spring, 1847.
St. John's	95	9,353	3,215	Manufactured in St. John's . 334,270
Brigus	66	5,010	2,111	Manufactured in Conception
Carbonear	54	4,634	1,672	and Trinity Bay . . . 110,910
Harbor Grace	51	5,084	1,684	Total Number 455,180
Ports to the Northward . .	74	5,803	2,123	
Total	340	29,884	10,805	Estimated Value of Seals caught, Spring, 1847 £214,175

Cod Fishery.—The extraordinary abundance of cod fish on the banks and shores of Newfoundland was speedily ascertained after the discovery of the island in the year 1479. The fishery in the year 1626 was rapidly growing into importance, and at that time the island began to supply the demand in Spain and Italy. At the close of the late war the fisheries rose to a pitch of prosperity quite unprecedented, the exports in the year 1814 amounting to 2,831,538 $\frac{1}{2}$. When, however, peace was restored, the British Government conceded to France her extensive rights of fishing exactly as they stood at the commencement of the war; and now, owing to the large bounties with which that Government supports and encourages their fisheries, we are obliged to compete with them on very unequal terms in the supplying of foreign markets, so much so that the British Bank Fishery has ceased to exist, and the fisheries have dwindled down to an open boat in-shore fishery, and even that is year after year getting worse, and has ceased to give the remunerative employment to those engaged in it, as was the case in bygone years.

This fishery opens at the beginning of June, and lasts till about the middle of October, and may be said to form the staple occupation of the inhabitants of this colony; it is prosecuted by the planters and their assistant fishermen, who form one of the two classes of this community; they live under the control and influence of the other class, the merchant, on whom they are solely dependent for the supplies and requisite means for pursuing their calling.

By the census of 1845 the planters, fishermen, and shoremen amounted in number to 18,503 persons, and their boats, which are divided into three classes according to the burthen of fish they can carry, amounted to 10,089; the divisions being—8092 boats, carrying from 4 to 15 quintals of fish; 1025 boats, from 15 to 30 quintals; and 972 boats, from 30 quintals upwards.

The fish when cured is sold and delivered to the merchants, who on receiving it have it divided into four qualities, viz., merchantable, Madeira or seconds, West India or third quality, and lastly inferior, which is about half the price of merchantable; Madeira is 1s. a quintal under merchantable, and 1s. 6d. more than West India.

The quantity of dried cod fish exported in the year 1847 was 837,973 quintals, the value of which may be estimated at 489,940 $\frac{1}{2}$.

The liver of the cod yields a large quantity of oil, which is extracted from it by natural heat, no other preparation being necessary than merely putting it into casks, and when it is fully decayed drawing off the oil. A quintal of good fish will yield more than a gallon of oil, but the produce of the season is not more than 80 gallons to 100 quintals of fish.

The quantity of cod oil exported in the past year was 2369 tuns, the value of which may be estimated at 60,329 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Herring Fishery.—Though the shores of Newfoundland swarm with herrings from March to December, yet the curing of these valuable fish have been in a certain degree totally neglected, though there is no country in the world better adapted for prosecuting this fishery with success. It is the opinion of many persons well versed in the trade, that if proper attention was paid to it, and more care used in curing them than there is at present, in a few years the fishery would rise to such an importance, as not merely to be an auxiliary to the cod fishery as it is at present, but that it would almost rival it. In the past year the number of barrels exported was 9907, and their value may be estimated at 5111 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Salmon Fishery.—The salmon fishery has been carried on in this country from its earliest discovery, and nearly to the same extent as it is at present. The export of them has ranged from 2500 to 5000 tierces of 300 lbs. each for the past 50 years, though that is not near half the quantity caught, as a great

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deal of salmon is shipped at the Labrador and parts of Newfoundland, the accounts of which do not pass through the Custom House, being sold generally to American traders, who buy them loose from 18s. to 25s. per 100 lbs. The number of barrels exported in the past year was 4917, the value of which may be taken at 9782*l*.

Banks, Exchanges, Monies, Weights and Measures.—Section 4.

The Bank of British North America has a branch established in St. John's. Excepting by this bank, no other paper money is issued in the colony; the amount of its paper currency is not known.

A savings' bank was established under an Act of the Legislature, in the year 1834. The members of the Executive Council, and an equal number of the members of the General Assembly, including the Speaker, constitute the Board of Directors; the office of Cashier is filled by the Colonial Treasurer for the time being. The amount deposited is between 51,000*l*. and 52,000*l*. The number of depositors at the close of last year was 643; the weekly deposits average about 347*l*. In addition to three per cent. interest on the amount of deposits, a bonus of one per cent. for one year is given on sums not exceeding 50*l*. that had been deposited 12 months previous to the close of the year's accounts.

The greater part of the trade of the colony being effected in barter, it is impossible to give any accurate information as to the amount of coin in circulation; but it has been conjectured to be from 80,000*l*. to 100,000*l*. British money and Spanish dollars are the coins in circulation, the latter established by the Governor's Proclamation at 4*s*. 4*d*. sterling, but passing current at 5*s*.

The course of exchange varies according to circumstances and to the demand for bills to remit to England in payment of goods and merchandize imported into the colony, and generally highest in the autumn. The demand is governed in a great measure by the result of the cod and spring seal fisheries. If successful, remittances are made chiefly in oil; if otherwise, Bills of Exchange are remitted. The par of exchange is 15½ per cent. currency premium. The exchange occasionally rises to from 2 to 6 or 7 above par, but rarely falls below it.

Weights and measures are according to the standard of England, as prescribed by the Colonial Act, 4 Wm. IV., cap. 9.

Imports and Exports.—Section 5.

Imports in the year 1847 .	£843,409	Exports in the year 1847 .	£806,565
" 1846 .	802,247	" 1846 .	759,103
" 1845 .	801,330	" 1845 .	939,436

The amount of exports in the year 1847 show an increase of 47,462*l*. compared with the value of the exports of the year 1846; but if compared with the value of the exports in the year 1845, the year preceding that in which the colony was subjected to a series of calamities in the shortness of the fisheries, the failure of the potato crop, the destruction by fire of a great part of the capital, and the hurricane which devastated the coasts on the 19th September, exhibit a decrease of 132,871*l*.

The following tables, exhibiting a comparative statement of the quantity and value of the staple articles of produce exported in the three years above referred to, will best show the items in which this deficiency occurs:—

Quantity.

Years.	Dried Fish.	Oils.	Seal Skins.	Salmon.	Herrings.
	Quintals.	Tuns.	Number.	Tierces.	Barrels.
1845	1,000,233	8,670	352,202	3,545	20,903
1846	879,015	7,507	265,169	5,201	12,119
1847	837,973	8,624	436,831	4,917	9,907
<i>Value.</i>					
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
1845	596,990	243,646	40,123	12,794	11,234
1846	504,008	182,974	29,500	10,598	6,876
1847	489,940	229,185	46,280	9,782	5,111

*Shipping.*NEWFOUND-
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Ships owned and registered in the colony—

1845	907
1846	937
1847	950

Ships built in the colony—

1845. No. 32	Tons 1607
1846. No. 31	„ 1723
1847. No. 17	„ 854

Revenue and Expenditure.—Section 6.

The duties levied under the Customs Acts, Imperial and Colonial, form almost the entire of the revenue of the colony, the sums raised under these heads in the year 1847 being—Imperial, 6211*l.* 12*s.* ; Colonial, 52,127*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* : in all, 58,339*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.* Compared with the revenue from the same sources in the year 1846, there is an apparent increase of 2433*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*, while had it not been for an additional 10 per cent. imposed at the commencement of the year on all imports into the town of St. John's, which produced 4000*l.*, there would have been an actual decrease of 1532*l.*

The total revenue of the colony in the year 1845 amounted to 60,303*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.* ; in the year 1846, 76,760*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.* ; in the year 1847, 69,253*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*

The apparent great increase in the year 1846 was occasioned by the raising, under a Colonial Act, a loan of 16,615*l.*

The increase in the year 1847 over that of 1845 was occasioned by transferring, under your Lordship's sanction, from the Imperial grant to the colony, in consequence of the losses sustained by the fire on the 9th June, 1846, a sum of 5000*l.* for the relief of the destitute poor generally throughout the island, as also by the raising of a small loan, and the additional 10 per cent. on the imports into the town of St. John's, before adverted to.

The expenditure of the colony in the last two years, compared with the year preceding the fire, exhibits a very large increase. Compared with the year 1845, the year 1846 shows an increase of expenditure of 11,346*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.* ; the year 1847 an increase over that of 1846 of 638*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.* ; and compared with that of 1845 an increase of 11,984*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.*

To account for this large increase of expenditure, I need but refer to the charges on the revenue for the support of the poor in these two last years. The amount expended for the poor in the year 1845 was 2923*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* ; in the year 1846, 7052*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*, an increase beyond the expenditure of the year preceding of 4129*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.* ; in the year 1847, 13,339*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.*, exceeding the amount expended in the year 1846 by 6286*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* ; and that of 1845 by 10,416*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.*

In addition to this, the Executive have, under your Lordship's authority, expended from the relief money of the fire sufferers upwards of 11,000*l.* for the relief of the destitute generally in the colony, so that in the year just passed the amount expended by Government for the relief of the poor throughout the island exceeds 24,000*l.*, nearly half the ordinary revenue of the colony.

The state of the finances of the colony presents, I regret to say, a very cheerless aspect, and with the large amount of debt with which the colony is saddled, their extrication from their present difficulties must be both slow and gradual. The first step in the right direction will be removing the charges incurred in the support of the poor from the public Treasury ; for if the present system of the State maintaining the whole pauper population of the colony is persisted in for any lengthened period, the whole credit of the colony must be annihilated. The subject will, immediately on the meeting of the Legislature, be brought under their consideration, and I trust we shall be enabled, by the revision of the existing laws and the adoption of other measures of a more wholesome character, to supersede the present loose and unsatisfactory way in which the relief to the poor is now administered throughout the colony.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. GASPARD LE MARCHANT.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c.

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REPORTS EXHIBITING THE PAST AND PRESENT

Enclosure 1 in No. 4.

ABSTRACT RETURNS OF THE POPULATION, &c., OF NEWFOUNDLAND, according to the Census of 1845.

Name of Districts.	Males.										Females.			Of what Religion.						Number of Churches.										
	Under 14 Years.			From 14 to 70 Years.			Above 70 Years.			Under 14 Years.			From 14 to 70 Years.			Above 70 Years.			Protestant Episcopalians.	Roman Catholics.	Presbyterians.	Wesleyans.	Congregationalists.	Protestants of other Denominations.	Protestant Episcopalians.	Roman Catholics.	Wesleyans.	Congregationalists.	Protestants of other Denominations.	
	Inhabitants.	Professional Men, and Persons not otherwise described.	Planters, Fishermen, and Shoremen.	Tradesmen.	Farmers.	Dwelling-houses.	Under 14 Years.	From 14 to 70 Years.	Above 70 Years.	Under 14 Years.	From 14 to 70 Years.	Above 70 Years.	Protestant Episcopalians.	Roman Catholics.	Presbyterians.	Wesleyans.	Congregationalists.	Protestants of other Denominations.	Protestant Episcopalians.	Presbyterian.	Roman Catholics.	Wesleyans.	Congregationalists.	Protestants of other Denominations.	Protestant Episcopalians.	Presbyterian.	Roman Catholics.	Wesleyans.	Congregationalists.	Protestants of other Denominations.
St. John's	25,196	368	2,366	889	500	4,410	4,937	8,182	58	4,862	7,102	55	4,226	18,586	529	1,075	365	15	10	1	5	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Conception Bay	28,026	237	6,152	321	37	4,196	6,035	8,697	167	5,786	7,156	185	8,601	11,580	16	7,800	27	2	13	..	10	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Trinity Bay	8,801	37	1,967	81	5	1,353	1,992	2,649	48	1,903	2,155	54	4,753	1,283	11	2,752	2	..	12	..	2	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bonaville Bay	7,227	46	1,259	31	6	1,039	1,664	2,241	38	1,544	1,700	40	4,681	1,809	7	727	..	..	11	..	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Twillingate and Fogo	6,744	46	1,363	16	..	988	1,563	2,183	25	1,436	1,529	8	5,017	1,128	2	597	..	..	7	..	9	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ferryland	4,370	41	700	22	11	780	856	1,512	44	848	1,079	31	163	4,201	1	..	..	..	4	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Placentia and St. Mary's.	6,473	34	1,589	43	57	960	1,332	2,196	50	1,340	1,533	22	971	5,435	8	37	..	..	4	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Burin	4,358	24	1,531	9	2	634	911	1,544	30	905	957	11	1,221	1,951	2	1,183	..	1	1	..	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fortune Bay	5,100	37	1,556	77	3	721	1,057	2,026	26	959	1,003	29	4,610	1,392	..	68	..	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grand Total	96,295	914	18,503	1,489	621	15,091	20,347	31,230	486	19,583	24,214	435	34,281	46,785	576	14,239	394	20	64	1	42	34	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Name of Districts.	Schools.				Sealing Vessels.		Ranking Vessels.		Number of Fishing Boats.			Acres of Land.		Average Annual Produce.					Live Stock.									
	Number.	Conducted by Masters.		Conducted by Mistresses.	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.	Fishing Boats.			In Possession.	In Cultivation.	Barrels of Potatoes.	Bushels of Oats and other Grain.	Tons of Hay.	Tons of Straw or Fodder.	Horse.		Neat Cattle.		Number of Pigs.	Number of Goats.					
		Male Pupils.	Female Pupils.						From 4 to 15 Quintals.	From 15 to 30 Quintals.	30 Quintals and upwards.							Number.	Bred in this Island.	Number.	Bred in this Island.							
St. John's	52	1,339	669	3	215	397	173	16,138	3	190	690	55	30	30	2	2	63,777	19,099	48,543	3,436	3,469	844	771	1,307	360	228	577	1,125
Conception Bay	51	1,841	1,180	..	36	146	235	18,713	..	..	2,445	97	148	313	70	70	8,375	3,798	152,878	6,798	2,109	221	949	1,576	1,436	2,243	2,164	2,944
Trinity Bay	22	547	454	..	19	29	34	2,763	..	..	1,153	46	46	114	267	267	1,478	1,079	29,623	8	516	3	121	997	969	179	429	187
Bonaville Bay	17	362	194	..	..	73	26	1,792	..	..	207	205	121	155	1,884	1,884	808	612	25,971	272	366	14	52	505	453	243	881	680
Twillingate and Fogo	10	218	202	..	..	..	..	969	22	673	925	51	38	38	2,316	2,316	2,951	406	13,862	516	51	14	5	276	163	33	193	338
Ferryland	22	519	289	..	3	135	6	514	..	..	648	72	84	47	..	..	2,275	1,202	23,556	536	878	37	176	607	599	315	129	276
Placentia and St. Mary's.	11	294	928	..	29	32	4	168	..	..	458	158	226	76	..	..	4,272	2,200	38,599	584	1,537	16	245	1,618	1,613	1,938	518	226
Burin	11	165	188	..	40	35	..	..	..	..	380	127	202	43	..	..	1,531	1,047	11,081	20	777	2	85	889	883	127	101	8
Fortune Bay	10	184	170	..	16	19	24	656	..	..	1,186	70	85	85	29	29	326	211	2,667	3	174	2	5	360	314	439	85	7
Grand Total	209	5,468	3,574	358	866	522	522	41,723	25	863	8,092	1,025	972	879	4,568	4,568	83,435	29,654	341,341	11,695	9,886	1,127	2,409	8,135	6,802	5,750	5,077	5,791

Enclosure 2 in No. 4.

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ABSTRACT RETURN of the POPULATION, &c. of ST. JOHN'S.

Encl. 2 in No. 4.

Inhabit- ants.	Profes- sional Men and Merchants.	Fishermen and Shoremen.	Trades- men.	Houses.	Ware- houses.	Wharfs.	Shipping.	Shipping, Foreign.
25,196	388	2386	889	4410	45	42	Entered inwards, Port of St. John's, 1847, 861 vessels. Tonnage, 102,206. Men, 6077. Outwards, 831 vessels. Tonnage, 99,244. Men, 6208.	861 vessels. Tonnage, 102,206. Men, 6077.
Coasting Vessels.	Boats.	Cod Fishery.		Seal Fishery.		Herring Fishery.		Salmon Fishery.
No accounts kept.	775	Men employed, 1193. Quintals, 502,138. Oil, 1736 tuns. Value, average 20 <i>l.</i> to 25 <i>l.</i> per tun.		Vessels fitted out, 95. Tonnage, 9353. Men employed, 3215. Oil, 4623 tuns. Value, average 25 <i>l.</i> to 28 <i>l.</i> per tun.		Number of barrels cured annually, 10,000. Average price, 13 <i>s.</i> per barrel.		Sold fresh at St. John's, at from 5 <i>d.</i> to 7 <i>d.</i> per lb. In the Out Ports, cured for exporta- tion, about 1800 tierces. Value, 4 <i>l.</i> per tierce.

(No. 75.)

No. 5.

No. 5.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl GREY to Governor Sir J. G. LE MARCHANT.

SIR,

Downing-street, June 2, 1848.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, No. 19, of the 4th ultimo, transmitting the "Blue Book" for Newfoundland for the year 1847, and enclosing a Report on the general state of the colony.

I have to convey to you my thanks for this very clear and able Report.

I have, &c ,

Sir J. G. Le Marchant,
&c. &c.

(Signed) GREY.

BERMUDA.

No. 6.

BERMUDA.

No. 6.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor ELLIOT to Earl GREY.

Bermuda, April 20, 1848.

(Received May 23, 1848.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for 1847.

Taxes and Duties.

In the year 1846 the charge of 3 per cent. *ad valorem* on the unenumerated articles (of an average value during the last three years of about 100,000*l.*, or nearly three-fourths of the whole imports) was reduced to 1½ per cent., and last year to 1 per cent., leaving the revenue at the end of 1847, at nearly the same amount that it stood at the end of 1845, under the higher scale.

This Legislature, following the example of others in the neighbourhood, has repealed the imperial duties; and though the Act has not yet been left to its operation, I think it convenient to contrast the present and proposed scheme of finance in this place.

BERMUDA.

December 31, 1846.			Proposed Colonial Tariff.	
	Gallons.	Duty.		Probable Income.
Rum at 1s. per gallon, . . .	34,020	£1,551	Wines of all kinds, 2s. per gallon . . .	£ 676
Brandy and gin at 1s. 6d. per gallon	13,693	1,027	Brandy, gin, and cordials, 2s. 3d. per gallon	1,550
Wine, at 1s. per gallon	6,760	338	Rum, 1s. 6d. per gallon	2,325
Malt liquors produced . . . . .	..	534	Malt liquors, the hogshead, 15s.	534
Cigars . . . . .	..	55	Cigars, the thousand, 8s.	55
Cordials . . . . .	..	11	Tobacco and snuff, the lb., 1d.	100
Gallons Spirits and Wine 51,473		£3,516	Manufactured goods and all articles not enumerated in the above schedule, nor comprised in the subjoined table of Exemptions, probable value, 81,000l., (3½ per cent. <i>ad valorem</i>)	2,835
Specific duties paid at the Treasury, 1½ per cent. on value of 99,000l.		1,485		£8,075
Annual average amount Customs duties		5,000		
		£10,000		

The Committee of the House of Assembly, which reported the present project, has computed the public charge for supporting the Government at about 8000l., and estimates that their own tariff would produce about 8075l. That calculation, however, is confined to the fixed charge of supporting the Government; but it will be observed, from the statement appended to this report, that the average annual expenditure chargeable to this colony for the last three years has been about 12,000l. I have said chargeable to the colony, because there is a Parliamentary grant of 4050l. in aid of the revenue. The present charge to the colony for collecting the imperial and other duties amounts to about 2000l., of which the large proportion of 1500l. is paid to the actual Custom-house establishment. The Committee contemplates a saving of 800l. or 1000l. under that head; but considering that most of the colonial offices necessary for the collection of the revenue will have to be created, I should apprehend that this amount of reduction will hardly be realized. All practicable economy should of course be effected in this and every other branch of the public service: but in organizing a colonial fiscal system by duties on imports, it is to be hoped it will be remembered that the plan of low salaries to the revenue officers has been tried in several parts of the world, under very varying circumstances of society and government, and the results everywhere have been extremely unsatisfactory both to the revenue and the fair dealer. I may observe on this subject, that this colony, with its very small population, is, nevertheless, in a peculiar situation as to the means of raising revenue on very easy terms to the inhabitants, by a judicious tariff; and it is quite possible at Bermuda to collect a diminished revenue in a manner which would operate more burdensomely on the trade and well-understood interests of the people than a larger amount under a differently adjusted tariff. The explanation is, that there are large public establishments here, paid by the Imperial Treasury, and it may safely be said that more than half of the colonial revenue accrues from the expenditure of persons belonging to these services. The resources, too, and favourable prospects of the islands are steadily improving, and it is not probable that the claims of the community for needful and eventually remunerative assistance, for facilities of communication, education and several other heads of outlay will be less in future than they have been for some years. I trust that all these considerations will have their due weight in the new finance arrangements.

The most prudent plan, in my opinion, in the circumstances of Bermuda, where the land is extensively lying waste, and where, on the other hand, the effective demanders of goods are very numerous relatively to the population, would be to take the present tariff and expenditure for a basis, to add nothing to any of the duties actually levied, but to effect gradual reductions through the whole list, beginning with the articles of primary necessity, and proceeding upwards in that order as the revenue mended or the expenditure decreased. A large list of exemptions, and an additional duty on the imports forming the staple of the merchant's traffic, will, I hope, be avoided.

It is, no doubt, to be wished that the improved state of the land and the general condition of the inhabitants in respect of other property, were such as to warrant a different mode of taxation. That, however, is not the case; and, if it were, the feeling of the people would probably be found to be decidedly opposed to direct taxation for the support of the government. But, at all

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events, when it is determined that the general revenue is to be raised by duties on the imports, it is equitable to the body of the traders and tax-payers that the list of exemptions should be extremely limited, and the duties spread over the whole imports of the colony. It is to be regretted that the proposed increase of 2½ per cent. in the new tariff on unenumerated articles, will fall chiefly upon British trade, which decreased from 51,000*l.* in 1846, to 41,000*l.* in 1847.

Fees.

By an Act passed during the last session, certain fees on shipping and the crews and passengers therein, have been abolished. The office of the deputy secretary at St. George's, on a salary of 60*l.* per annum, was also abolished by this Act; and the effect of it, on the vacancy of their offices by the present Governor and Secretary, will be a reduction of the charges on shipping of about 400*l.* a-year. These fees depended partly upon a law of William and Mary, and partly upon long custom, applicable to a state of circumstances which have long passed away. The late arrangement was made in a spirit of equitable compensation to the present officers.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue, with diminished taxation, during the past two years has now very nearly recovered the same figure; having been—

In 1845	£18,771
In 1847	18,239

The expenditure has increased from 16,819*l.*, in 1845, to 18,189*l.*, in 1847: 1370*l.* excess; which excess is to be ascribed to increased expenditure for churches, public works, the establishment of the new light-house, and 500*l.* last year towards relief of distress in the United Kingdom.

The light money collected since the establishment was opened, on the 1st May, 1846, has been—

In 1846	£283
In 1847	533

Total £816

against the total expense to the colony up to December 31, 1847, of 1124*l.*

This admirable light, besides contributing inappreciably to the security of navigation in these seas, has already brought several thousand tons of shipping into the harbours of Bermuda for refuge and repairs, to the great advantage of the trade of the colony. The actual excess of expenditure over the light money collected in 1847 (the first whole year that the light has been burning) was about 131*l.*

It is noticeable that the duties on rum and sugar under the Imperial Acts have decreased considerably during the last three years:—

	1845.	1846.	1847.
	£.	£.	£.
Spirits and Cordials, including Rum	899	843	506
Sugar	1,823	1,237	874
	2,722	2,080	1,380

Whilst, however, there has been a considerable increase in the amount of imports of this description since 1845.

	Total Value in 1845.	Total Value in 1847.	Duty in 1845.	Duty in 1847.
	£.	£.	£.	£.
Molasses and Syrups . .	835	1,694	127	242
Sugar	8,135	9,360	1,822	874
Spirits and Cordials, including Rum	4,929	6,255	899	506
	13,899	17,309	2,848	1,622

BERMUDA.

The diminution of sugar and spirit duties under the Imperial Acts must therefore be attributed to the increased consumption of British plantation sugar and rum in this colony since 1845. These commodities were chiefly imported for some years past from Cuba and Porto Rico. It may be, that the rising price in those ports since the relaxation on that kind of produce in the United Kingdom will explain this circumstance. And it appears to confirm this view that molasses have been more freely imported here from foreign possessions during the last two years.

Molasses, Total Value from Foreign Ports in 1845.	Total Value from Foreign Ports in 1847.	Total Duty in 1845.	Total Duty in 1847.
£. 425	£. 1,694	£. 127	£. 242

It is much to be hoped in this colony, where we have a large force of troops and resident establishments paid by Her Majesty, and where we are visited every year by ships of war, transports, and numerous passengers, that the duties on light wines and malt liquors will be laid much lower than they are, either in the present or proposed tariffs, and that the duties upon the inexpensive kinds of spirits will be kept as high as may be, without inducing the mischief of smuggling. This principle of taxation and improved intelligence seem the most hopeful means of checking the fatal abuse of ardent spirits into which soldiers and sailors, and the working classes, are too prone to fall, especially in hot climates. It claims consideration also, that the chief consumers of malt liquors and wines are the officers in the Queen's service, who derive least benefit from the Colonial revenue, whilst they contribute largely to it, and liberally in the support of charities and the schools. If this class of consumers is levied upon unequally, they may probably import more and purchase less on the spot, and therefore a disproportioned incidence of taxation in that direction may have an unfavourable effect on the local trade. But there are other reasons for a contracted list of exemptions in this colony, and for dispersing the imposts over the general consumption.

It is to be considered that a large part of the people have only recently emerged from slavery, and that the price of common labour here is 2s. 6d. per diem, and of artisans, 5s. or 6s., with no want of employment for industrious and steady men. I suppose it may be taken for granted, that the right exercise of equal privileges and extending civilization in these parts of the world must follow a common law of human progress. These things must be diligently pursued and maintained at some cost to be justly valued; but in this genial climate, and with the waters full of fish, higher wants and habits of industry and thrift can only be formed by a necessity for continuous exertion. It seems reasonable, therefore, to infer that a fair share of the support of the Government, and the keenness to their own rights and interests incited by that obligation will be helpful to the coloured races, and I think that circumstance is perfectly understood by the intelligent amongst them.

The treasurer of Bermuda is paid by a per centage on the revenue; a bad practice, which, I hope, will be remedied in the new arrangements by awarding to him a fixed salary, liberally proportioned to his labour and responsibilities. The opinions and testimony of that officer on all subjects connected with the revenue should be freed of the imputation of personal bias. At present his duties to the community and his interests are in opposite scales.

Local Revenue.

The local revenue and expenditure of the nine parishes in these islands have hardly varied during the last 10 years. They continue to stand at about 1500l.; neither has there been much difference in the amount devoted to the maintenance of the poor.

	£.
In 1839 that charge was	371
In 1847 ,, 	441
Difference	70

whilst the population in that interval has increased from 9500 to about 11,000. Since emancipation, marriage has become general amongst the people of colour, associating them into families connected with and helpful to each other. Making steady progress in intelligence, substance, and self-respect, they are conscientiously discharging the duty of providing for their aged and infirm relatives; with the increasing interval since emancipation, and after the old and unconnected persons formerly in slavery have passed away, there is no reason to think that the proportion of the people of colour receiving aid from the parishes will preponderate.

The affairs of the corporation of Hamilton are judiciously managed, and in a good condition. In 1839, there was a debt of 2000*l.*, with an income of 600*l.* In 1847, there was a debt due to the corporation, of 1200*l.*, with an income of 1268*l.* The town continues to increase in size, and general improvement proceeds prudently and satisfactorily.

The corporation of St George's has for many years had a debt of 2000*l.* without assets to pay principal or interest. There is a Government House there in the centre of the town, not furnished by the colony, and the repair of which is some charge on the general revenue. It stands upon a domain of about 25 acres, belonging to Her Majesty, and I believe the best use which could be made of it, would be, to grant it to trustees to sell for building lots; the proceeds to form a fund for general town uses.

Convict Expenditure.

During the last half-year of 1847, the supply, payment, and account of the Convict department have devolved upon the Commissary, subject to directions from the Governor, and the system of purchase and sub-account by the overseers has been entirely abolished. This alteration has been attended with economy and simplification of account.

We compute the cost of a convict to the public at the Bermuda establishment, including the expense of the passage out, and every other charge to be about 20*l.* per annum, and the value of his labour to be 33*l.* per annum. But with the whole establishment on shore at Boaz Island, the annual charge for the repairs of the hulks will disappear, (necessarily increasing as the hulks grow older), and reductions may also be gradually effected in the number of officers on the higher scales of salaries. For example, instead of four overseers at Ireland Island, on a salary of 200*l.* a-year, and one at St. George's, for five hulks, (*i. e.*, 1000*l.* under that head), I think that it will not be necessary to have more than two officers on the allowances of overseer, when the prisoners are lodged on shore. Other parts of the establishment will also admit of some reduction when the mass of the prisoners are concentrated; and the entire management of the sick by the medical officers of the establishment in an infirmary attached to it, will effect a saving of at least one-half the present charge.

Her Majesty's Government, however, are aware that beyond economical considerations, there are other strong reasons for the earliest practicable removal of the prisoners to buildings on shore; and it is a source of satisfaction that Boaz Island, and the islet contiguous to it are so suitable for these purposes. This property was purchased for 1695*l.*

The considerable increase of convicts within the last 12 months, from 1350 to 1750, disposes me respectfully to renew the suggestion, whether additional military security may not be best and most economically provided by the formation of a small colonial sea fencible force, to work one or two very light draft steam-boats, capable of navigating the inlets of this group; such, for example, as are used between London and Woolwich. Organization of that kind for the easy and sudden concentration of force is peculiarly adapted to Bermuda, where the deep indentations of the shore by the sea, and the limited breadth of the islands from coast to coast have made the waters the high roads, and by-paths of the colony. It is my own belief, that the present military strength with those means of rapid movement, would be as effective as an additional battalion of infantry, without such facilities. The expense might be considerably reduced, by allowing the boats to ply as passage-vessels, to the inhabitants on moderate charges. It is, of course, only proposed that the quota

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of sea fencibles actually on duty should be paid and rationed, and the reduction of sailing boats now in use for military service would be another offset against this charge. The people of Bermuda have always manifested insuperable repugnance to a militia force, but they are well suited, and would be found well disposed for maritime organization. The training of Her Majesty's subjects (inhabitants of hot climates) to the service of the engine-room, would, I am sure, be otherwise useful.

Public Works.

Since the year 1844, the ship channel leading into St. George's Harbour has been widened and deepened by sub-marine blasting, under the sanction, and with the assistance of Her Majesty's Government. The colonial rates for this work amount to 2000*l.*, and I trust it will be completed this year to the extent originally intended, without further assistance from the Legislature. The harbour of St. George's has been considerably improved by these operations with much advantage to that town, and to the trade of the colony.

A new gaol has been constructed in the town of St. George's, at an expense to the colony of 1800*l.*, and is nearly ready for the reception of prisoners. There are 20 cells for prisoners, besides debtors' rooms, and a convenient space for a yard. The building is well situated in every respect. A hospital for insane paupers capable of holding 8 or 10 patients has also been completed, and is now ready. The charge for this work, inclusive of the site, has been 1100*l.* Indigent lunatics have hitherto been confined in the gaols, a practice which was attended with serious inconvenience.

In the last Session of the Legislature, a vote was made of 1500*l.*, (payable in three annual instalments of 500*l.* each, in the three successive years next after the passing of the resolution), in aid of the opening of the Staggs Channel into the Great Sound, for the admission of ships of a large class. That operation would neither be difficult nor expensive, and I think must be considered to be the most important work which remains to be achieved at this depôt, both for the interests of the empire, and of the islands. The Great Sound is perhaps the finest and safest harbour on this side of the Queen's dominions, and there is no other available harbour here for the ships of the largest class which can enter these waters. The anchorage of Grassy Bay (Ireland Island) is very limited in extent, and somewhat exposed in the heavy north-easterly gales of the winter season, particularly for light-anchored merchant ships. Line-of-battle ships and heavy frigates could not go into St. George's.

I cannot dismiss the subject of Colonial Public Works without expressing the hope that the Legislature will place their superintendence, including the roads, under the commanding Royal Engineer. From want of proper skill in lining and constructing the roads, they have been a heavy and constant drain upon the resources of the colony. Indeed, generally there is much need for systematic and vigilant supervision of the outlay for Colonial Public Works.

Education.

Till last session of the Legislature it had been found impracticable in this colony to establish any system for the promotion of general education. But by the Act of 1847, in aid of the establishment of schools, a Board of Education has been formed, and the appropriation committed to their disposal. This scheme proposes to assist and encourage education on the principles which the projectors of the schools may see fit to prefer, and to incite emulation and raise the standard of instruction by impartial but vigilant inspection. It will be seen by the following statement, that this measure has already had a good effect. At the Admiralty school on Ireland Island, no difficulty is found in the association of the coloured and white children. At St. George's also, the feeling upon that subject is gradually giving way, and in the course of a few years I hope that the people generally will send their children to the schools, where they can find the best instruction for which they can afford to pay, without regard to other considerations.

Years.	Free Schools.	Males.	Females.	Total Number.	Expenditure.	Private Schools.	Remarks.
1846	17	378	322	700	Colonial Treasury £239 Private Subscription 356 £595	18	Before passing of the Act.
1847	24	526	578	1064	Colonial Treasury £600 Private Subscription 553 £1153	19	Since passing of the Act.

Agriculture.

No statistical returns have been taken since 1843, but I propose, in the ensuing session, to move the Legislature to provide for that object. Twice in periods of 10 years seem to be convenient intervals for ascertaining the condition of the colony in those respects, and as the Legislature may soon be engaged in the revision of the system of revenue, accurate information must be essential. The agriculture, or it should more properly be said, the horticulture and orange orchards of the islands make satisfactory progress. Much more land has been cleared during the last two years, and more industry and skill devoted to these pursuits. With the approaching steam communication between the islands and the North American continent, the land will, I hope, return good profits on the outlay. It produces potatoes well, whilst we crop at nearly the same seasons that they plant; and the oranges of Bermuda are certainly as fine as any that I have seen, and may, of course, be carried by steam in a state of high perfection to the markets of New York, Boston, and Philadelphia.

Since I have been here, the reserve stocks of live cattle have several times been nearly exhausted, owing to disasters at sea, and in my despatches I have submitted the importance of encouraging the people of Bermuda to rear and stall live cattle for the consumption of the public establishments. I believe the safest plan would be to contract for the supply of three days' fresh meat a-week for a force not exceeding a given number of men, but to relieve the contractors of the obligation to maintain reserves, and to devolve that necessity upon the Commissariat; that department working off or preserving their stocks by one, two, or three days' additional supply of fresh meat a-week, according to the condition of the contractors' stocks. When the people understand that they can always find a sale for live cattle at the Commissariat pens, the importation of cattle at the most favourable seasons, as well as their rearing and stalling, will become an important part of the general business of the islands. In this way, effective reserves of live cattle will be spread over the whole face of the colony, instead of being very imperfectly maintained in the contractors' stalls. Raising or keeping live stock for the consumption of the public establishments would always be a safe business here under this system; for tempestuous weather makes importation of that cargo very precarious during six months of the year. With a little practice and skill, I believe it will be found that there are few places of an equal extent of acreage where live cattle may be stalled at a cheaper rate than Bermuda. Some description of green fodder or suitable nourishment may be taken from the land during every month of the year, and we are close to markets where the proportion of hay which may be necessary for a few years can be procured at very low rates at the proper seasons for making such purchases.

This mode of maintaining reserves would keep the contract prices steadily lower, besides adding greatly to the military security of the post, and the general improvement of the islands as a dépôt. At present the larger part of the expenditure for the fresh beef supply of Bermuda is paid to the United States.

The apprehension of a dearth of food which prevailed during last spring, led to the extensive planting of ground provisions, particularly sweet potatoes, a very valuable and certain crop here. I believe the islands never produced such a large and valuable addition to the subsistence of the people as during the past year. The amount and value of the productions of the soil exported during that year have also considerably increased.

To 5th January, 1847, they amounted to . . . £ 7,950
To 5th January, 1848, to . . . 12,250
G 2

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And the quantity grown and consumed in the islands and exported during the current year, will be still larger. I find it difficult to leave this subject without acknowledging the great service rendered to the agriculture of this colony by my predecessor. He found it entirely neglected, and left it in a hopeful condition.

Money.

Governor Reid, in his report with the Blue Book of 1844, exhibited a table showing the expenditure incurred for the naval and military protection of Bermuda, and in aid of the civil establishments, for 10 years ending on the 31st December, 1844. That year was the last of the system of supplying the Commissariat chest by direct importations of specie from Mexico, and I have deemed it desirable to continue that statement from the end of 1844 to the end of 1847, as well as to show the amount of bullion imported for public service from Great Britain and other parts of the world during the same period.

“Memorandum by Assistant Commissary-General in Charge.

“ACCOUNT of the EXPENDITURE incurred by Great Britain for the Naval and Military Protection of Bermuda, and in aid of the Civil Establishment, from the 1st January, 1845, to 31st December, 1847.

Years.	Paid on the spot from the Commissariat Chest.	Officers paid in England, and Provisions.	General Total for each Year.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1845 .	80,266 7 4	13,256 14 1	93,523 1 5
1846 .	80,242 5 8	13,903 7 6	94,145 13 2
1847 .	*77,640 19 5	*15,684 13 9	93,325 13 2

The average expenditure during the three years ending December 31, 1844, was £101,000 per annum.

* Regimental officers have the option of receiving their pay either from the Commissariat chest or through their agents in England, and consequently these amounts vary accordingly, but it will be seen that the general totals correspond nearly.

“ACCOUNT of BULLION imported from England, or other parts of Her Majesty's Dominions, since the abolition of the Mexican System of Supply; with Remarks on the subject of the Circulating Medium of the Colony, and the cheapest mode of sustaining it, as requested by his Excellency Governor Elliot.

Date.	From whom received.	British Gold.	British Silver.	Total.
		£.	£.	£.
1846, August . .	C. E. Trevelyan, Esq.	..	5,000	5,000
September . .	Ditto	..	5,000	5,000
1847, February .	Ditto	5,000	5,000	10,000
April . .	Ditto	10,000	..	10,000
August . .	Ditto	..	10,000	10,000
1848, January . .	Ditto	5,000	5,000	10,000
	Total . .	20,000	30,000	50,000

“Since the abolition of the Commissariat establishment in Mexico, by which the supplies of specie were obtained, the chest in this command has been altogether supplied by negotiations of Treasury bills, aided by occasional consignments of British coin from England, as shown above, and this I consider to be the best and cheapest mode of sustaining it, and at the same time to maintain the circulating medium of the colony, especially in small coinage, of which I believe there was formerly great want.

“The requisitions made to the Treasury by my predecessor and myself, have been for silver in preference to gold, the latter seldom returns to the Commissariat chest, being, I imagine exported to the United States, and other parts, or taken by persons proceeding to England and elsewhere, as the most convenient coin; but British silver remains in the colony generally, and is therefore available as a circulating medium. The consignments of gold from England, in February and April, 1847, arose from the scarcity of silver coin

“ to meet the great demands for payment of the thousands employed on the
“ Public Works in Ireland, and the railroads in England.

“ Dollars have almost disappeared here since the importations by the Com-
“ missariat from Mexico have ceased, and as a proof thereof, the following is a
“ statement of the coins received into the chest during the last three years, in
“ exchange for bills on the Treasury.

	In British Money.	In Dollars.	Total.
	£.	£.	£.
From 1st April, 1845, to } 31st March, 1846 . . }	1,120	42,542	43,662
From 1st April, 1846, to } 31st March, 1847 . . }	675	31,928	32,603
From 1st April, 1847, to } 31st March, 1848 . . }	22,768	7,394	30,162

“ Of this sum 16,811*l.* was received in the last six months, chiefly in crowns,
“ half-crowns, shillings, and sixpenny coins.

“ It will be observed that a considerable diminution occurred in the sale of
“ Commissariat bills during the last two years, compared with the preceding.
“ These bills being usually purchased by merchants to remit in payment for
“ articles imported for the use of the colony, and assuming that the consump-
“ tion has not decreased, (prices at the same time being by no means lower,) it
“ might be inferred that the importations have been met in great part by
“ increased exports of produce raised in these islands, which, if correct, is a
“ most gratifying result. The rate of exchange on bills, I imagine cannot have
“ operated in reducing the demand, a premium having been received in 1845-6
“ of half per cent. and for a long time past they have been sold at par, the rate
“ being regulated in great measure by the exchange at New York.

“ The Commissariat chest is at present well supplied, and I am led to be-
“ lieve that there is a considerable amount of specie in the hands of individuals,
“ and that altogether the circulating medium of the colony is amply sufficient
“ for every purpose, and in a very satisfactory state.

(Signed) “THOS. RAYNER, A.C.G.”

“ Commissariat Bermuda,
“ Hamilton, April 12, 1848.”

The import trade of the colony has been increasing during the last two years,
as will be observed by the table appended to this Report, neither have prices
fallen, and therefore the diminished sale of Commissariat bills during that
period, must be partly ascribed to the increasing amount of exports. But I
believe, there has been some amount of West India bank paper thrown into the
colony during the last year or 15 months, which will also serve to account for
this circumstance.

It will be seen by Mr. Rayner's instructive memorandum, that the British
silver coin remains in the colony, which is an economy to the Imperial Trea-
sury, and a convenience to the community. We have never had any banking
institution here, and in the condition of this colony, I believe that the best bank
for the people, is their own frugality, their industry, the best capital, and the
maintenance of their well established honesty, the safest source of credit.

Trusting that this statement of the steady progress of Bermuda, will be
satisfactory to Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) CHARLES ELLIOT,
Governor.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

42 REPORTS EXHIBITING THE PAST AND PRESENT

BERMUDA.

Enclosure in No. 6.

Encl. in No. 6.

AN ACCOUNT of the REVENUE of BERMUDA under its several Heads for the Years 1845, 1846, and 1847.

Year.	Received under Imperial Acts.	Rum, ls. per gallon.	Brandy, Gin, Whiskey, and Shrub, ls. 6d. per gallon.	Wine, ls. per gallon.	Malt Liquor, 15s per bhd., ls. per dozen bottles.	Cigars, 8s. per 1000.	Personal Property Sold at Auction, 2½ per cent.	Light Duty, 4d. per ton.
1845	£. s. d. 6,352 4 8	£. s. d. 1,220 9 2	£. s. d. 728 17 6	£. s. d. 165 18 1	£. s. d. 310 7 9	£. s. d. 55 17 4	£. s. d. 286 6 6	£. s. d. . . .
1846	5,500 13 11	1,550 16 6	1,026 17 3	316 19 5	506 4 0	52 8 0	234 3 5	283 14 8
1847	4,772 14 7	1,907 13 4	1,098 19 7	343 6 0	520 17 6	52 12 2	299 1 10	533 19 0

Year.	Fines and Forfeitures.	Old 2½ Duty on Spirits and Wine, and Malt Liquors.	All other Articles Imported, except specifically Taxed.	Incidental.	Total Revenue.	Parliamentary Grant.	Total Resource from Blue Book.	Total Expenditure.
1845	£. s. d. 29 10 0	£. s. d. 406 7 1	£. s. d. 2,645 10 8	£. s. d. 65 10 11	£. s. d. 12,266 19 8	£. s. d. 4,049 13 4	£. s. d. 18,771 5 3	£. s. d. 16,819 5 0
1846	32 7 2	418 14 2	1,472 15 2	270 10 3	11,666 3 6	4,049 13 4	18,215 16 1	17,135 17 0
1847	24 15 6	402 7 7	1,701 10 8	106 0 7	11,763 18 4	4,049 13 4	18,239 13 9	18,189 9 0

*. * The duties on spirits, wine, and malt liquors during the last three years have amounted to about one-third of the whole taxation of the colony; and it is noticeable that the consumption of rum has increased largely with the heavily increased duty on malt liquors and wines.

IMPORTS and EXPORTS into and from the BERMUDAS, for the Years ending respectively 5th January, 1847, and 5th January, 1848.

Imports, value in Sterling.

	1847	1848
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
From Great Britain . .	52,079 2 9	40,581 0 8
„ North America . .	3,199 1 0	2,739 13 0
„ British West Indies .	3,881 8 4	9,082 6 8
„ United States . .	65,762 19 2	77,235 12 10
„ Foreign States . .	3,309 7 2	9,354 3 7
Total . . .	134,189 18 5	138,992 16 9

Exports, value in Sterling.

	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
To Great Britain . . .	2,943 0 4	7,964 6 2
„ North America . .	207 6 2	258 14 4
„ British West Indies .	7,024 18 9	7,073 9 10
„ United States . .	5,107 15 2	3,146 8 8
„ Foreign States . .	3,309 13 10	1,762 4 8
Total . . .	18,592 14 3	20,205 3 8

NUMBER of VESSELS that have entered Inwards and Outwards, during the same Period.

	5th January, 1847.						5th January, 1848.					
	Inwards.			Outwards.			Inwards.			Outwards.		
	No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.	Men.
United Kingdom . . .	23	6,587	273	3	921	62	19	4,449	201	5	681	39
British West Indies . .	23	1,270	124	46	4,472	311	41	2,439	229	57	4,501	323
British North America .	11	654	51	17	3,335	154	16	1,505	91	20	2,307	131
Foreign Europe:												
Foreign Vessels . . .	1	215	9	1	200	11	1	274	10	..	..	..
United States:												
British Vessels . . .	34	2,926	210	52	4,620	324	37	2,856	223	57	6,824	409
Foreign Vessels . . .	44	6,498	263	32	4,636	197	37	5,793	248	27	4,051	177
Foreign West Indies:												
British Vessels . . .	31	1,609	154	12	996	71	31	1,679	160	19	1,516	116
Foreign Vessels . . .	1	203	11	3	443	18	3	404	18	4	520	25
Total . . .	168	19,962	1,095	166	19,625	1,148	185	19,399	1,130	189	20,400	1,220

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Imports and Exports into and from the Bermudas, &c.—*continued*.

BERMUDA.

NUMBER of VESSELS registered in the same Period.

	5th January, 1847.		5th January, 1848.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
New Vessels . . .	3	198	6	170
Registered de novo .	5	307	6	351
Total . . .	8	505	12	521

STAPLE PRODUCTIONS.

5th January, 1847.			5th January, 1848.		
	£.	s. d.		£.	s. d.
Arrow-Root	4,115	16 5	Arrow-Root	6,760	9 5
Boats	109	0 0	Boats	30	0 0
Cedar Timber	209	10 0	Cedar Timber	280	14 11
Onions (397,676 lbs.) .	1,637	8 8	Onions (1,201,280 lbs.) .	2,726	15 0
Palmetto Plait	32	16 0	Palmetto Plait	35	14 0
Potatoes (6,672 bushels) .	1,845	4 0	Potatoes (10,310 bushels) .	2,428	1 6
Total	7,949	15 1	Total	12,281	14 10

VESSELS SOLD and TRANSFERRED from the Colony.

5th January, 1847.			5th January, 1848.		
No.	Tons.	Value.	No.	Tons.	Value.
2	138	£. 1800	4	130	£. 1580

NUMBER of VESSELS belonging to the Colony, together with the Amount of Tonnage and Number of Mariners.

5th January, 1847.			5th January, 1848.		
No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.	Men.
53	3551	314	52	3372	301

Custom House, Hamilton, Bermuda,
March 8, 1848.

(No. 186.)

No. 7.

No. 7.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl GREY to Governor ELLIOT.

SIR,

Downing-street, June 2, 1848.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 20th of April last, accompanying the annual "Blue Book for Bermuda," for the year 1847.

I have perused with much satisfaction, the very copious and clear report which you have made on the general state of the colony, under your Government.

Governor Elliot,
&c. &c.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GREY.

BAHAMAS.

BAHAMAS.

No. 8.

(No. 36.)

No. 8.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor MATHEW to Earl GREY.

Government House, Nassau, April 29, 1848.

(Received May 23, 1848.)

My LORD,

With a map.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the "Blue Book" of the Bahamas for the year 1847, and to enclose my accompanying report on the state of the colony.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

• GEORGE B. MATHEW,

Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c.

REPORT on the STATE of the COLONY of the BAHAMAS, on the 1st January, 1848.

THE Bahamas or Lucayos extend from the Grand Bahama or Matanilla Cays in 27° 31' north latitude, and 79° 5' west longitude, to the Mouchoir Carré Bank, in 21° north latitude, and 70° 32' west longitude, a distance of upwards of 600 miles.

Generally speaking, they present a flat appearance, and are the work of the coral insect. They are formed of calcareous rock, which, by retaining the moisture, is found well adapted to the growth of the orange and of other fruits suited to the climate.

In the most southerly islands are salt ponds of great value, the cultivation of which is increasing, but is yet capable of great improvement.

New Providence, although a small island of 20 miles in length and about 7 in breadth, from north to south, contains the chief town, Nassau, with a population, at the Census taken in 1845, of 8400 inhabitants, which is supposed to have increased since that time.

The most important of the other islands are *The Turks Islands* (producing the largest quantity of salt), which contain only eight square miles, with a population of 2520.

Harbour Island, containing eight square miles, with a population of 1700 persons, employed in ship-building and wrecking, and carrying on some trade with the United States.

Abaco, possessing an area of 225 square miles and 1900 inhabitants, who are also ship-builders and wreckers, and occupy four settlements.

Eleuthera, the principal fruit-growing island, has 100 square miles, with a population of 3400. The chief settlements are at Governor's Harbour, The Cove, Rock Sound, and The Current.

Heneagua, containing 576 square miles, with a large salt pond and several prairies, has but 172 inhabitants; and

Mayaguara, with 81 square miles, only 9 inhabitants.

These two last-named islands, which are situated to the eastward or windward part of the colony, are virtually unsettled and almost unexplored. From the various reports made, and (with respect to Mayaguara, from some personal knowledge,) I have reason to believe they exceed in fertility all the other islands of the Bahamas, and that, at no distant period, they may be made to contribute materially to the wealth and importance of the colony.

materially to the wealth and importance of the colony.

St. Salvador, called also Guanahani or Cat Island, is celebrated as the first discovery of American land, by Columbus, on the 12th October, 1492. A mark, on a prominent rock overhanging the bay, is asserted to have been the spot where the Cross was first planted.

There are now two settlements, containing 348 males and 326 females.

Andros Island furnishes the best cedar of the Bahamas, and has a population of 401 males and 358 females, who are nearly all "coloured."

Great Bahama contains 454 males and 356 females, chiefly employed in raising Indian corn and other agricultural pursuits.

Ragged Island has 166 males, 147 females, and exports large quantities of salt to the United States.

Rum Cay has a population of 299 males and 261 females, engaged in agriculture and in raising stock, as well as in salt raking.

Exuma 888 males, 794 females, engaged in agriculture, cotton growing, and salt raking.

Long Island 660 males, 626 females, engaged in salt raking, sponge and conch fishing, and turtling.

Crooked Island and Long Cay 483 males, 452 females, engaged in salt raking.

Caicos. This group has a population of 303 males and 254 females, chiefly engaged in rearing stock and produce for the Turks Islands market.

The Berry Islands, of which the chief is "Stirrup's Cay," has a population of 96 males, employed in wrecking, and 65 females. In Appendix A will be found a return of the acres in cultivation, and ungranted.

The entire population of the Bahamas in 1845 amounted to 26,500, since which it may be presumed to have increased to near 30,000. Of this population every one is engaged in some professional, agricultural, or commercial pursuit. The means of living are within the reach of all, and a very moderate amount of labour suffices to command the necessaries of life.

There is no poor rate levied in the islands. An annual sum is voted for the support of the poor, not exceeding the sum of 1300*l.*, from which the New Providence Asylum, which is a hospital as well as a poor-house, is entirely maintained. The only permanent recipients of relief are such as from age or infirmities are unable to work.

Climate.

The climate of the Bahamas is fine, and well suited to European constitutions, with moderate care. The three autumn months are occasionally visited with fevers of a similar nature to the fevers of the Ionian Islands and Cyprus. From the 1st of November to the 1st of May it is impossible to exceed the beauty and salubrity of the climate.

A table for the past year will be found in the Appendix (A).

Revenue and Expenditure.

The first item to the debit of this account, being the public debt of the colony, Revenue—Debt. I purpose, in the first instance, briefly to refer to its origin.

The public debt of the Bahamas amounted, on the 31st December, 1847, to 28,333*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* This debt consists of loans raised by the Treasurer, under the authority of various Acts of Assembly, in order to meet the deficiency in the revenue in several former years, and is secured by Treasury Bills, in the possession of 29 fundholders, nearly all of whom reside in the colony, or are connected with it. The largest amount held by any one person is 6000*l.*; the next 5000*l.* There are also bills for 4000*l.*, 2500*l.*, and 2100*l.*; the remainder is distributed in amounts varying from 150*l.* to 800*l.*

The interest is payable quarterly, at five per cent., on all excepting a sum of 650*l.*, borrowed at six per cent., which is now ordered to be paid off.

The stock has never been at a discount.

The revenue of the Bahamas for the year 1847 consisted of—

Revenue.

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Import duties, including—	£.	s.	d.
Receipts from Her Majesty's Customs	18,103	14	11
Export duties, tonnage and fees	5,026	7	3
Auction tax	1,350	10	0
Liquor license tax, assessed taxes, and market rates	1,120	2	4
Quit-rents under the Act of Assembly	2,440	16	5
Fees in Secretary's Office	530	1	0
Other sources of revenue	978	2	4
Total gross	£29,549	14	3
Deduct drawbacks and commissions of Deputy Receivers at out-ports	428	0	3
Total net Revenue for 1847	£29,121	14	0

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the same period, was—	£.	s.	d.
The Civil Department	8,071	12	7
Ecclesiastical Department	2,969	12	0
Judicial Department	5,354	17	3
Public Works	5,565	19	11
Maintenance of Poor	1,300	0	0
Interest of Public Debt	1,430	6	8
Sundry	8	13	4
Total Expenditure	£24,701	1	9
Surplus of Revenue over Expenditure for 1847	4,420	12	3

This surplus, therefore, is available either for general purposes, or for the paying off part of the permanent debt of 28,333*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*

As, however, this debt, being less than one year's income, is not, at this time, found to press heavily on the resources of the colony, and as large grants of money will be required during the ensuing year for necessary purposes specified in the sections of this Report which treat of "Public Works" and "Gaols and Prisons," it is not deemed expedient, in the peculiar position of the colony with regard to a former component and remunerating part, to pay off a larger sum than 1000*l.* (including the portion at 6 per cent.) of the debt, and to reserve the surplus for purposes of improvement, which must eventually produce more advantageous results, either in a financial or moral point of view, than could be obtained by merely lessening the annual payments by an unsought reduction of the principal due.

It may be proper to state, that this is the first instance for many years of such an available surplus. In the years 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, and 1843, the expenditure always exceeded the income. In the years 1844, 1845, and 1846, there was a surplus on each year, amounting in the three years to 5000*l.*, which was expended in redeeming an issue of Treasury notes for small sums, which appear to have been put in circulation in 1841, but which are now paid off with the exception of a trifling amount of 14*l.*, now ordered to be paid.

Comparative Yearly Statement of Revenue and Expenditure.

The returns now forwarded show—

A gross revenue collected in 1847 of	£29,549	14	3
Against the gross revenue of 1846, of	26,182	18	11
Leaving a balance in favour of 1847, of	£ 3,366	15	4

This increase arises from the improvement in certain items of revenue amounting to 6505*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.*, against a decrease in others of 3138*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.*

In accounting for this increase, it is right to premise that a considerable portion consists in the sum of 2440*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.*, being the commutation of quit-rents paid into the Treasury in aid of the revenue.

Under the Colonial Act of Assembly 9 Vic., c. 10, the quit-rents payable to the Crown are commuted for a fixed sum to be paid to the Treasury; and an annual revenue of 300*l.* to be expended within the colony, is granted to the Crown in lieu thereof. As the terms of commutation were very favourable, almost all the holders of land, by that tenure, availed themselves of the provisions of the Act, and the commutation has, for the most part, been paid in 1847. The probable amount of revenue to be derived from this source in future will therefore be very trifling.

There is, however, exclusive of this temporary source of revenue, an increase in the year of 1125*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.*, which is caused by a small augmentation of each of the several items of import, export, and tonnage duty.

The customs' duties, which form a part of the imports, show an increase of 783*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*

In the colonial import duties there is a decrease of 215*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.* on the articles of wheat, meal flour, and bread; of 436*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* on corn and pulse, and 248*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.* on salt meat. The decrease of imports of these articles is to be attributed to the high price of provisions in the American market, caused by the dearth in Europe.

These high prices have induced many of the inhabitants of the Bahamas to turn their attention to the better cultivation of the soil, in the production of Indian corn and other articles of food, thereby diminishing the imports. That this decrease is not owing to diminution of the resources of the colony, may be inferred from the fact of the general increase of the revenue, and especially of those articles which may be deemed luxuries, such as that on wine, of 374*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.*; ale and porter 101*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.*; tea 44*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.*; soap 98*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*; and of 123*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* on cattle and live stock. There has been a decrease of 376*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.* on brandy; of 430*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* on turtle; and of 229*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.* on *ad valorem* duties. With respect to the turtle, which was imported only for the purpose of transmission in a prepared state to Europe, a Colonial Act, passed on the 20th February, 1847, took off, on exportation, all duty. The *ad valorem* duties were chiefly derived from English manufacturers. Owing to the great and general depression of trade in England, the transactions of the English mercantile houses here have been very limited, and the duties consequently lessened.

The export duties show an increase of 287*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.*, which may be attributed partly to the increase of exportation, and partly to the Revenue Act of 25th September, 1846, which, though it reduces considerably the duty payable on salt, imposes a duty on fruit and other articles which were previously free.

The expenditure for the year 1847 amounts to	£24,701	1	9
That for 1846 to	22,745	7	9
Excess in 1847	£1,955	14	0

There is an apparent decrease of 940*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.* in the Civil department, the expenditure for which in 1847 appears to have been 8071*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.*, while the same department in 1846 is placed at 9011*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.* But this arises from the circumstance of certain payments, which should have been placed to account of "Miscellaneous Services," having been very erroneously inserted under this head in making up the Blue Book for 1846.

A slight increase of expenditure in the Judicial department is caused by the establishment of a Court of Bankruptcy.

Under the head of "Disbursements on account of Miscellaneous Civil Services," the returns show an increase of 2793*l.* 12*s.*

This increase is caused by several items of expenditure of an unusual nature; such as 500*l.* granted to the Irish Relief Fund; extensive repairs to Government House and to the public buildings; and the erection of a market-house.

By examining the preceding comparative statement of Revenue and Expenditure, and by referring to the return of Imports and Exports, in pages 147 to 157 of the Blue Book, it will be seen that the colony has, during the past year, continued steadily to improve in revenue and trade, notwithstanding the effect of the depression of commercial affairs in England and other countries.

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Under this head, at page 40, will be found the abstract of the accounts of the Receiver-General of Crown dues for the year 1846.

Public Works.

The public buildings have undergone extensive repairs during the past year.

The works most imperatively required are, the improvement and deepening of the harbour at Nassau and Harbour Island; the erection of lighthouses at Castle Island and Grand Cay, Turks Island; and the building of a new prison, on an improved plan, at Nassau.

The former four of these works are, I fear, beyond the financial resources of the Bahamas, but their effect would be of general benefit to the commerce of all countries, and especially of Great Britain.

Military Expenditure.

With the exception of the payment of the militia staff, and of the rent of barracks for a detachment at Turks Island, this colony incurs no military military expenditure.

Militia.

The militia corps in New Providence are,—two companies of artillery, six companies of light infantry, and one of rifles, who are well armed and equipped, and have reached an unusual degree of discipline.

In the Turks Islands are three well-accounted companies.

In several of the out islands an enrolment of militia has taken place, but owing to the scattered position of the islands, and the difficulty of assembling the men, who are principally seafarers, but little has been done in training and arming them.

Legislation.

The Legislature assembled on the 9th of December, 1846, and remained in session until the 25th March, 1847. During this period they passed 35 Acts, amongst which may be noted:—

A more liberal and comprehensive Education Act.

An Act to improve the practice and lessen the expense of the Courts of Chancery and Ordinary.

An Act establishing a Fire Brigade.

An Act commuting the Fees received by the Governor, Colonial, and Private Secretary.

An Act establishing an Agricultural Society.

An Act establishing a Library and Museum at Nassau.

Civil Establishment.

The Civil establishment comprises the Civil, Medical, and Ecclesiastical departments.

The Civil department consists of the Governor, whose salary is 2000*l.* per annum, of which 1200*l.* is paid by the British Treasury, and of the following officers, who are paid by the colony:—

	£.	s.	d.
The Colonial Secretary	1042	14	2
The Governor's Private Secretary	200	0	0
The Speaker and Officers of the House of Assembly	367	1	8
The Receiver-General and Treasurer	850	0	0
The deputy Receiver-General	250	0	0
Seven Tide-waiters	380	0	0
Thirteen Preventive officers (with 4 per cent. on all monies collected)	1012	18	4
The Surveyor-General	260	8	4
The Postmaster			

	£.	s.	d.
Officers' New Providence Asylum	309	11	8
Harbour Master	150	0	0
Health Officer	105	0	0
Civil Engineer	100	0	0
Clerk Board of Works	62	10	0
Cashier Public Bank	260	8	4
Militia Staff	49	0	0
Light-house Keeper at Nassau	90	0	0
Light-house Keepers at other stations (paid by British Treasury)	318	0	0
Normal Master and Inspector of Schools	200	0	0
Secretary to Board of Education	50	0	0
The above, with some smaller appointments, form the Civil department, the expense of which, with contingencies for the year 1847, was	£.	s.	d.
Of which was paid by the British Treasury	9114	17	11
By the Colonial ditto	1518	0	0
	7596	17	11

The Customs department, stationed at the Bahamas, consists of:—

	£.	s.	d.
The Collector, at	700	0	0
Landing Surveyor	350	0	0
Searcher	250	0	0
Clerk and Warehouse-keeper	200	0	0
Sub-Collector at Turks Islands	300	0	0
Warehouse-keeper at ditto	200	0	0
Total	£ 2000	0	0

From the British Treasury, of the above is paid the sum of 830*l.* The balance, amounting to 1170*l.*, is retained by the Collector of Customs, before paying over the Imperial duties received, to the Colonial Treasurer.

The anomaly of the double Customs establishment, the officers of the one being named by the Crown, and the other by the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Customs, must be apparent.

Its inconvenience to trade is very much felt.

Judicial Department.

The judicial department consists of the Governor, who is Chancellor and Vice-Admiral, both honorary distinctions.

Of the Chief Justice, who receives a British salary of 500*l.*, and a colonial salary of 260*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*; of two Assistant Justices receiving British salaries of 200*l.*, and colonial salaries of 182*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*; of a Clerk of the Crown at 145*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*; an Attorney-General at a home salary of 150*l.*, and a colonial salary of 234*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*; a Provost-Marshal receiving a home salary of 150*l.*, and a colonial salary of 234*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*, (making, with fees, &c., a total of 545*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*); and of some minor appointments.

The Police Magistrate receives the reduced salary of 300*l.*, to be raised to 400*l.*, on the decease of the late and superannuated magistrate of police.

The judicial establishment at Turks Islands consists of—

	£.	s.	d.
A Judge, at	310	8	4
A Provost-Marshal	180	0	0
A Police Magistrate and Clerk of the Crown	177	0	0

There are four Stipendiary Magistrates, who take in regular turn annually an extensive district.

	£.	s.	d.
The whole expense of the Judicial establishment in 1847 was	8504	17	3
Of which the British Treasury paid	3150	0	0
And the Colony	5354	17	3

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Ecclesiastical Department.

The Ecclesiastical department in the Bahamas consists of an archdeacon, who receives a salary of 1000*l.* from the British Treasury. Four rectors of parishes, who receive from 270*l.* to 370*l.*. Three Church missionaries, who receive 300*l.* (150*l.* from the colony, and 150*l.* from the Society for the propagation of the Gospel). Two stipendiary curates at 150*l.*, and one at 120*l.*; besides lay readers, &c.

There is also in Nassau an endowed Presbyterian church, the minister receiving the same colonial salary as the rector of a parish.

	£.	s.	d.
The whole expense of this department for 1847 was	4559	12	0
Of which, from the Colony	2969	12	0
" British Treasury	1140	0	0
" Society for the propagation of the Gospel	450	0	0

There are in the colony four Wesleyan and three Baptist Missionaries (besides probationers and lay readers), who are supported by the contributions of their congregations.

Pensions.

The amount paid in pensions to retired or reduced public officers amounts to 484*l.*

The widow and orphans' fund, established in 1844, now amounts to 1123*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.* No pension has become chargeable upon it.

Education.

The Board of Education, under the Colonial Act of 10th Vic. cap. 1, consists of the Governor and a committee of four members of the Executive Council.

The first report of the Board will be found in the Appendix (C).

In connexion with this subject may be mentioned the establishment of a museum and library at Nassau, one department of which is specially intended for the benefit of the industrial classes.

The first report of the trustees is also annexed (Appendix D).

Agriculture.

It is difficult to obtain with accuracy the number of acres under cultivation in the Bahamas. There is no doubt but this has much increased in the last two years.

The return of the Surveyor-General of the number of acres, fit for cultivation, has already been referred to (Appendix B).

The gambling life of a wrecker has much militated against agricultural pursuits, and against the real advancement of these islands, and against the comfort and interests of the inhabitants; but the handsome returns of late obtained for fruit will, it is hoped, strengthen the endeavours made to increase and diffuse agricultural pursuits and knowledge.

In order to encourage the cultivation of the soil by the distribution of premiums, and with the view of spreading information, and ensuring to the poorer classes a continued supply of seeds and plants, an Agricultural Society has been established in Nassau, and has been incorporated by Act of Assembly.

Gaols and Prisons.

The last section of the Blue Book contains an account of the number of prisoners committed during the year, and a plan of Nassau gaol.

The number for the year 1847 was 439, of whom a very large proportion were unable to read and write.

The General Court convictions do not exceed 30; the remainder consist of persons sentenced to short terms of imprisonment by the magistrates for breaches of the peace, assaults, and petty larcenies.

The subjoined report from the Gaol Board (Appendix E) states fully the method of prison discipline now pursued, and suggests the introduction of a new and more enlightened system.

It is to be regretted that, on account of the great outlay required in building

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to carry this plan into effect, it has only as yet been partially adopted for the present year.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GEORGE B. MATHEW,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

APPENDIX A. Appendix A.

	Thermo- meter's Average.	Barometer's Average.	Prevailing Wind.	Prevailing Weather.	Rain, in inches and 100ths.
Jan. .	74	29.90	N.E. & N.W.	Clear and fine	5.
Feb. .	73	30.06	N.E. & N.W.	Ditto	4.50
March .	73	30.20	N.E.	Squally, fine	2.75
April .	76	30.07	N.E. & S.E.	Clear and fine	3.20
May .	80	30.00	S.E. & N.E.	Clear, cloudy	3.49
June .	82	30.94	S.E.	Fine with frequent showers	4.12
July .	85	30.00	S.E.	Ditto ditto	4.34
Aug. .	86	30.07	S.E.	Ditto ditto	3.91
Sept. .	83	29.62	S.E. & N.E.	Ditto ditto	5.40
Oct. .	81	30.06	N.E.	Clear, fine	2.73
Nov. .	77	30.09	N.E.	Ditto	1.74
Dec. .	73	30.00	N.E. & N.W.	Ditto	0.82

APPENDIX B. Appendix B.

RETURN OF CROWN OR WASTE LAND in the BAHAMAS, 1847.

Islands.	Estimated Amount of Water.	Estimated as Barren and unfit for Cultivation.	Remaining of the Escheats that have been Cleared.	Never under Grant, and Uncleared.	Total Amount of Waste Land in each Island of the Colony.	Remarks.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	
Exuma . .	2,848	3,000	1,394	4,654	11,896	* The Andros Islands have not been surveyed; the interior, for the most part, is composed of extensive salt marshes and fresh water swamps, in which are islands valuable for their timber. Only the sea-board is habitable during the summer months, owing to the myriads of mosquitoes and other insects that infest the low ground.
Long Island .	6,085	9,600	5,600	5,667	26,952	
New Providence	6,660	9,000	..	9,634	25,294	
Crooked Island	8,000	17,000	22,200	32,883	80,083	
Harbour Island	..	..	..	156	156
Berry Island .	300	1,000	..	1,488	2,788	
Abaco . . .	16,000	41,000	13,426	64,650	135,082	
Andros Islands	..	..	7,593	..	1,046,803*
Grand Bahama	19,400	40,000	1,708	63,483	124,591	
Eleuthera . .	5,000	5,000	8,430	8,556	26,986	
St. Salvador .	6,000	4,000	16,078	2,707	28,785	† Heneagua has not been surveyed, and only a few acres have been granted in it. It is valuable for its extensive salt pond and for its pasturage, the interior being chiefly prairie land.
Rum Cay . .	3,300	1,000	..	3,359	7,659	
Watling's Island	9,000	2,500	3,345	7,365	22,210	‡ Mayaguana also has not been surveyed, the very limited supply of fresh water hitherto deterring settlers. The land is "virgin," and of a good quality.
Heneagua . .	..	..	7,180	..	366,540†
Mayaguana . .	..	..	..	..	51,840†
Caicos Island .	8,000	19,000	10,648	18,257	55,905	
Turks Island .	..	..	..	..	5,060
Ragged Island .	300	300	..	788	1,388	
Cay Sal	
Anguilla	

The general wild vegetation of the Bahamas is a close growth of trees, comprising the madeira, horse-flesh, mahogany, mastic, lignum vitæ, pigeon, alum, dye woods, &c, with an entangled under-brush. In the return of surveys from the several islands, two-thirds of the extent is estimated as fit for cultivation. The greater portion of the land at the disposal of the Crown is such as was rejected under the quit-rent tenure, and land that was escheated in 1832 for non-payment of the quit-rents, the grantees, or owners, refusing to pay the arrears due, not conceiving the land of sufficient value, having exhausted it by long cultivation.

J. J. BURNSIDE, Surveyor-General.

APPENDIX C. Appendix C.

REPORT of the BOARD of EDUCATION, appointed under the Act "to establish a system of popular Education and Training" in the Bahama Islands, for the year 1847.

THE Board of Education, appointed under the Act "to establish a system of popular Education and Training," for the first time present this their Report to the Bahama Legisla-

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ture. They will endeavour to set forth the precise circumstances under which they took charge of the schools appertaining to them, and then proceed to show briefly what they have been enabled to accomplish up to the present time.

The preceding Education Board ceased to exist on the 25th of June last, when the present Board commenced the exercise of its functions. At that time 23 public schools were established throughout the colony. The salaries of the teachers varied extremely, as will appear from the following abstract :—

	£.	s.	d.	
1 teacher at	125	0	0	per annum.
2 "	72	16	0	"
2 "	35	0	0	"
1 "	10	0	0	"
1 "	78	2	6	"
4 "	50	0	0	"
6 "	34	0	0	"
5 "	26	0	0	"

The number of scholars in attendance at the schools amounted to 1590.

Two schools have been re-established by the Board ; the one at Fox Hill, in this island, the other at Little Guano Cay, Abaco. There are consequently, 25 schools now in operation under their immediate control and management.

Several alterations in the teachers' salaries have taken place, as the existing scale will show :—

	£.	s.	d.	
1 teacher at	125	0	0	per annum.
1 "	78	2	6	"
2 "	70	0	0	"
4 "	50	0	0	"
2 "	35	0	0	"
7 "	34	0	0	"
1 "	30	0	0	"
1 "	27	0	0	"
5 "	26	0	0	"
1 "	10	0	0	"
1 assistant ditto	10	0	0	"

The children who attend the schools, as collected from the last returns, are 1785 in number, exhibiting an increase of 195.

The necessity of having their own school-houses has continually and forcibly impressed itself upon the Board. Out of those in use at present, five only are their property, three are rented by them, six belong to, and the remaining eleven are furnished by, the inhabitants of the respective districts. It would be especially desirable to carry out in these islands the plan adopted at the present day in the mother country, of building the teacher's residence and the school-house together.

The advantages of this system would, they humbly conceive, repay the consequent additional cost. The want of means, however, prevents their being able to aid in the erection, much less themselves erect either one edifice or the other.

An unwillingness in general exists among the inhabitants of the out islands to contribute to the building of any school-house. The plea of poverty is always urged in extenuation. The true reason perhaps lies in the circumstance of the school-houses on this island, the seat of Government, being paid for out of the public funds. To this, however, Fox Hill school, the site of which was presented by the Hon. Robert Sandilands, forms an exception. The people in the island districts feel how much better able the wealthy classes of the metropolis are to defray the expense of school buildings, or contribute towards them, than themselves, and think, therefore, if these are not required to do so they should not be.

The Board have sought information on the actual cost of suitable school-houses, and they find that a sum of at least 1200*l.* would be required to erect all that are needed—20 in number.

They have essayed to carry out the views of the Legislature, embodied in the last Education Act, with reference to the formation in some of the schools of classes who should receive instruction in the mechanical arts or agriculture. For this purpose, persons competent to teach navigation, tailoring, and shoemaking, have been employed at the boys' central school. A piece of ground, adjoining the boys' school in the eastern district of this island, was granted by the Executive to the Board for agricultural purposes. An agricultural class was consequently formed in connexion with the school, and a teacher engaged. The Board find, however, that the industrial departments entail very great expense, and trench largely on the funds at their disposal. No provision whatever to meet this expenditure was made in the legislative enactment. The Board will therefore be under the painful necessity of abolishing these departments unless the Legislature liberally come to their aid. In order the better to show the precise expense hitherto incurred in teaching the industrial classes, they subjoin the cost of each department between the 25th of June and 24th December.

	Teacher's Salary.	Contingencies.	Total.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Navigation . .	20 0 0	0 16 8	20 16 8
Tailoring . .	7 10 0	8 2 3½	15 12 3½
Shoemaking . .	8 2 6	5 13 7½	13 16 1½
Agriculture : .	20 0 0	18 16 8½	38 16 8½
			£89 1 9½

They have already been obliged, on account of the want of means, to dispense with the services of the teacher in the nautical and agricultural departments, which they have placed consequently under the immediate superintendence of the normal schoolmaster. The articles manufactured by the tailoring and shoemaking classes have not yet been sold. The proceeds of the sale, when received, will, of course, be placed to the credit of those departments.

They have endeavoured to increase their limited funds by enforcing the payment of the school fee in every way possible. Their efforts in this respect have not been quite fruitless, for the contributions received in the September quarter amounted to 12*l.* 9*s.* 8½*d.*; and in December, as far as has yet been ascertained, to 14*l.* 10*s.* 7½*d.* The payment of the school fee must ever be regarded as essential to the proper appreciation of the benefits of education. The amount is small, and within the ability of almost the poorest. Parents who can afford, and yet will not defray the expense of their children's education, merit not their country's help. In some districts the poor contribute largely, while in others the comparatively rich spend nothing.

The materials of the old school-building at Rum Cay have been sold by the Board's direction, and realized 26*l.* 5*s.*

They have earnestly tried to keep all the schools well supplied with suitable books and stationery. But in doing this, and providing for other contingencies to no less than 25 schools, they have been necessarily obliged to exceed the amount originally estimated for the half year. They have, in consequence of the sum of 1150*l.* granted in the 19th section of the last Education Act for the general purposes of that Act being only a specific and not an annual grant, prepared an estimate of the probable expenditure for the coming year, which will be laid before the Legislature.

The value and necessity of school libraries so pressed itself on the notice of the last Board, that they brought the subject prominently before the Legislature, and that body made a liberal grant of 40*l.* annually in furtherance of the object. These just and enlightened views are in the process of accomplishment. A number of useful works, carefully selected, have been ordered from Great Britain, which, when they arrive, will form the nucleus of an excellent library at the boys' central school.

No system of popular education can be regarded as complete without an institution for training teachers. The knowledge of this drew forth some very forcible observations, in reference to the subject from the last Board, which happily resulted in a liberal provision being made by the Legislature for the purpose. The art of teaching is no longer deemed, in civilized countries, the fit employment of such as cannot earn a livelihood by any other means. The trainer of the infant mind, and the guide of youth is beginning to be viewed in quite a different light to what he was, not many years ago. A wide-spread conviction is gaining ground, that it is as absolutely necessary to learn teaching, or the didactic art, as any other. The possession of extensive acquirements only, without the capability of communicating knowledge agreeably and effectively, is not thought sufficient at the present day. It is being universally admitted, that a long and careful preparation is necessary to fit a candidate for the teacher's office. So deeply is this conviction felt in Germany, that even preparatory seminaries for the training institutions have been established, at which the candidates must pass a rigid examination before they are permitted to enter the training school, and, if found incompetent, sent away.

The Board at their first meeting, readily and gladly availed themselves of the provisions made by the Legislature for a normal schoolmaster. The task of obtaining one was most kindly undertaken by his Excellency the Governor, then on the eve of his departure for England. Mr. Webb, warmly recommended to his Excellency by Mr. Dunn, the Secretary of the British and Foreign School Society, was ultimately engaged, and arrived at Nassau in the early part of last month. The task of re-modelling the boys' central school, so as to make it a permanent and efficient normal school, is about to be commenced by him. The building is now undergoing the alterations necessary to assimilate it, as nearly as possible, to the British and Foreign Society's Central School, and adapt it to their mode of instruction.

In accordance with the sentiments which the Board entertain on the importance of training, they have resolved not to engage any teacher in their service, until he shall have attended the normal school, and, after passing a strict examination, received a certificate of competency from the master. Mr. Forbes, destined for the school at Grand Cay, and Mr. Higgs for the Spanish Wells School, are at present in training.

In addition to the advantages which the scholars receive from instruction at the public schools, they have now the opportunity by marked ability, and a persevering spirit of becoming pupil-teachers, and eventually masters of the elementary schools. Hitherto many able and zealous persons have been deterred from entering on the career of a teacher, in consequence of the small pecuniary emoluments incidental to the office. The social position of the schoolmaster is regulated in the popular mind, more by the standard of remuneration, than by the importance of his duties. In order to secure a better and more efficient class of teachers, it will be necessary to adopt a scale of reward likely to effect the object in view. This, the Board con-

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ceive, may be accomplished by promoting the meritorious teacher, in the first instance from his own school to another with a higher rate of salary; and ultimately by advancing him to a public office. An instance of a teacher so promoted has recently occurred. The Board cannot but think, were the principle generally carried out, it must have the effect of enlisting into their service, young, intelligent, and energetic men anxious to qualify themselves for the teacher's office.

Having now detailed their proceedings and sentiments, the Board proceed to record as well as they are able, the general state of education in these islands, and the particular condition of each school under their management. In their endeavour to furnish the most copious information on a subject of such vast interest, they have been effectively aided by Dr. Eve, H. Cartwright, and F. Bedingsfeld, Esquires, stipendiary justices, whose services they cannot omit thankfully to acknowledge.

Out of a population of 24,765, only 1785 children, or 1 in 13, are under instruction in the public schools; of these 952 are boys, and 833 girls. The average number in daily attendance does not exceed 1142, or 1 in 21 of both sexes. The reason is obvious; it is the want of cordial co-operation on the part of parents. They detain their children from the school in order to employ them in some household or field-work; and, at times, to take care of their younger brothers and sisters. This occasions a very irregular attendance, and a proportionate backwardness in their education and intelligence.

The lateness of the hour at which the children come to school is another instance of this truly deplorable indifference on the parent's part, while it becomes a source of inconvenience and annoyance to the teacher, as well as injury to the scholar. The most urgent remonstrances have hitherto been of little avail in rooting out this evil and pernicious habit. It is, however, to be hoped that with the increasing general intelligence, it will be completely removed.

There are about 4000 children in the Bahamas fit to attend school, and not quite half are under instruction; 2215 are without any education, except what a few may receive at the Sunday-schools. The very scattered population of the districts offers most serious obstacles in this respect. Were the settlements not so far apart, and the inhabitants more concentrated, a much greater number might share in the present educational advantages. The Board trust to have their funds enlarged so as to extend in a corresponding degree, the benefits of sound instruction.

Boys and girls are taught together at all the schools, except at two; the boys' central school, and the girls' central school, Nassau. There are four infant schools; the rest are juvenile.

The school-fee, authorized by the Education Act, is thus regulated; "One penny per week for children above nine years of age; one halfpenny per week for children under nine years and above six; one farthing per week for all children under six years and above three; below three years of age, at infant-schools, free." In consequence of the poverty of many of the parents, it is exceedingly difficult to collect the school-fees,

Reading and Writing are taught in all the schools; Arithmetic in 23; Grammar and Geography in 5. In consequence of the want hitherto of properly trained teachers, there is no uniform system of instruction throughout the schools.

Spelling. Out of 1785 children 913 are taught spelling. A large number of these are learning their letters, while others are beginning to read.

Reading. 781 of the children, or rather more than two-fifths, read; about one-half of these with ease and correctness.

The Holy Scriptures, or selections from them, form the reading lessons, with scarcely an exception. It is, however, in contemplation to introduce useful and instructive secular books into all the schools. Experience teaches that the Bible is better understood, remembered, and appreciated, when used in connexion with secular works of known worth, than when constituting the exclusive subject of study.

Writing. Out of 1785 children, 678, or little less than two-fifths, write. Most of these, full two-thirds, write on slates, the rest in copybooks, either from slips, or copies set them by the teacher.

Arithmetic. Out of 1785 children, 598, or one in three, are taught arithmetic. Four-fifths of these are in the simple rules; the rest in the compound and higher rules.

Grammar and Geography. Out of 1785 children, 247 are instructed in the English grammar, and 223 in geography, a proportion of rather more than one in seven. The books used are not of a uniform character, and many of them exceedingly inferior. The acquaintance of the scholars with these educational subjects is very limited; a circumstance to be much regretted.

This report would be incomplete without some allusion to several places in the colony where schools are much required, but cannot be established for want of adequate funds. The educational destitution of the children not under instruction is truly lamentable. It is with a sincere hope of being enabled, by legislative aid, to supply this deficiency, that the Board record the facts brought within their notice.

At Marsh Harbour, Abaco, there are about 40 children. The parents earnestly desire the establishment of a school, and promise to pay the school fee punctually.

There is a school much wanted at Governor's Harbour, and at Savannah Sound, Eleuthera. None but Sunday schools exist in either place. At the former there are three, belonging respectively to the Church of England, the Wesleyan, and the Baptist Society; at the latter, one in connexion with the Methodist Society, which 120 children attend. No schools of any kind are established in the eastern part of Eleuthera. The children are consequently growing up in most deplorable ignorance.

The state of education throughout Exuma is very backward. The means of instruction are too limited for so extensive a district. George Town offers the most eligible site for a school, since the children of Rake Town, in the vicinity, could avail themselves of it. The inhabit-

ants are quite willing to contribute labour, and what materials the island affords towards the erection of a commodious school-house,

There are 117 children at Carrion Crow Harbour, Grand Bahama, without any means of instruction, the school at Eight Mile Rock being 60 miles distant. The people are sincerely desirous of having a school, but the Board cannot render them any assistance.

The inhabitants of Deadman's Cay, Long Island, have petitioned the Board to establish a school there, and promise faithfully to comply with the by-laws. They are principally whites. The children, about 40, are in a wretched state of ignorance.

The Board conclude their Report with an Appendix, which will exhibit the extent to which the poor take advantage of the means of education, the particular state of instruction in each school, the condition of the school-houses, and the expenditure and income.

NAME OF THE DISTRICT.	SITE OF SCHOOL.	Population.	On the Books at last Return.	Average daily attendance.	Number of Scholars.		No. of Paid Teachers, exclusive of Pupil Teachers or Monitors.	Attainments.					
					Boys.	Girls.		Spelling.	Reading.	Writing.	Arithmetic.	Grammar.	Geography.
Abaco . . .	Green Turtle Cay . .	1890	86	67	44	42	1	54	53	55	27	..	..
	Little Guano Cay . .	..	67	60	38	29	1	35	22	12	8	..	..
	Cherokee Sound . .	..	73	60	31	42	1	49	37	14	27	..	..
Andros Island .	Coakley's Town . .	759	52	18	27	25	2	49	2	13	36	19	..
Crooked Island .	Long Cay . .	935	23	18	15	8	1	10	10	8	10	3	..
Eleuthera . .	Rock Sound . .	3445	85	72	42	43	2	44	33	18	16	..	..
	Bluff Settlement . .	..	60	20	27	33	1	33	21	19	18	..	..
	Current Settlement . .	..	40	20	16	24	1	7	11	12	12	..	..
	Spanish Wells . .	..	67	55	31	36	1	40	36	40	36	..	..
Exuma . . .	Moss Town . .	1682	58	44	30	28	1	32	22	14	..	..	..
Grand Bahama .	Eight Mile Rock . .	812	27	21	13	14	1	15	15	6	6	..	..
Harbour Island .	St. John's . .	1745	54	42	51	3	1	26	28	24	17	..	..
Long Island . .	Clarence Town . .	1286	39	30	34	5	1	39	37	16	19	..	..
New Providence.	Boys' Central School.	8385	185	115	185	..	1	165	165	165	165	161	161
	Girls' Central School	..	118	59	16	102	1	56	62	62	62	24	24
	Boys' School, Eastern District.	..	86	45	74	12	2	61	54	61	54	40	40
	Western District . .	..	69	37	22	47	1	21	9	10	9	..	..
	Grant's Town . .	..	194	117	40	154	2	35	35	30	12	..	..
Ragged Island .	Fox Hill . .	..	111	55	44	67	1	13	13	1	..	..	..
	Duncan's Town . .	313	49	37	28	21	1	15	12	12	12	..	..
	North End . .	674	57	22	41	16	1	40	32	25	25	..	..
St. Salvador . .	Grand Cay . .	1726	46	26	30	16	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Turks Islands .	Salt Cay . .	798	79	45	48	31	1	59	45	45	23	..	..
Watling's Island	Cockburn Town . .	315	39	36	25	14	1	16	6	16	4	..	..

REMARKS.

Green Turtle Cay School.—Mr. Singleton, the teacher under the old Board, continued in charge of the school until the 24th September last, when he transferred it to Mr. Edgecomb. The salary has been reduced to 50*l.* per annum. The appointment of Mr. Edgecomb was a promotion from the Cherokee Sound School. He is honest and zealous in the discharge of his duties. The school has been completely re-organized by him, and is once more progressing to a state of efficiency. An almost insurmountable difficulty has been encountered in associating the white and black children in the school, from the deep-felt aversion manifested by the parents of the former. This complexional prejudice is now beginning gradually to disappear. The school-house is furnished by the inhabitants. It is much too small for the number of children in attendance, and is in bad repair.

Little Guano Cay School.—This school was re-opened on the 25th of October last, under the auspices of the present Board. It had remained closed since the death of the last teacher in 1845. The inhabitants, though poor, have shown a laudable spirit of anxiety to educate their children. They have repaired the old school building, and are about to enlarge it. A residence has been erected for the teacher, who is an active and able young man.

Cherokee Sound School.—Mr. Edgecomb retired from the charge of the school on the 24th of September last. It was re-opened in the early part of last month by Mr. Gwynn, who promises to become a valuable teacher. 75 children attended on the day of opening. The school is held for the present in the old Wesleyan chapel, an airy building, and capable of containing 120 scholars. As soon as the new chapel, now in the course of erection, is completed, the old one is to be dedicated entirely to school purposes.

Coakley's Town, Andros Island.—The school-house is public property, and the inhabitants aided in erecting it. The progress of the scholars is slow. The teacher is, however, zealous, and eager to bring his pupils forward, though the poverty of the inhabitants, and the scattered nature of the district, are serious obstacles to success. There is a teacher of needlework at this school.

Long Cay, Crooked Island.—Many children have recently left this school in consequence of the exaction of the school-fee. Owing to the irregular attendance of the scholars, their progress is necessarily slow. The school-house belongs to the former Commissioners of Salt Ponds, and is in want of repair. It is used as a church.

Rock Sound, Eleuthera.—Mr. Rattray, the teacher under the former Education Board, withdrew from the school on the 24th of June. Since then Mr. and Mrs. Wildgoos have been appointed the master and mistress at an annual salary of 70*l*. They are intelligent and efficient, and the school, in consequence, has rapidly improved. The children are clean, and neatly clad. The school-house is rented by the Board at 12*l*. 10*s*. per annum. It is quite too small to accommodate the number of children in the district who have applied for admission. More than 80 have been refused. The inhabitants have expressed their willingness to wattle and plaster any school-building the Board may erect. They are sincerely desirous their children should receive a sound education.

Bluff Settlement.—The teacher is not sufficiently assiduous in the discharge of her duties. The school is in a very unsatisfactory state. The school-house was built by the inhabitants, and is very much out of repair. The teacher states her inability to obtain contributions from the scholars' parents on account of their poverty. Another mistress is to be appointed.

Current Settlement.—The school has been closed since November on account of the illness of the mistress. The school-house was built by the inhabitants for the Wesleyan Society. In consequence of the state of the school, it will be necessary to appoint another teacher.

Spanish Wells.—The school is at present closed. The late master, Mr. Monro, has been appointed to a public situation. A teacher is now in training at the normal school, who will enter on his duties as soon as he has received a certificate of competency from the normal school-master. The school-house was built by the inhabitants on a public site. There is a girls'-school of industry in this district, in which needlework is taught.

Moss Town, Exuma.—The school-house is too small for the accommodation of the children. The inhabitants are willing to enlarge it, if the requisite materials are furnished. The teacher has had ill-health, and a change will be necessary. 12 of the girls at this school are taught needlework, and 19 platting.

Eight Mile Rock, Grand Bahama.—The school has been removed to this place from Carrion Crow Harbour. The teacher underwent training at the boys' central school, before he opened the school in the early part of November last. He is active and zealous. The school is at present kept in a building kindly supplied by one of the inhabitants. A piece of ground granted by the executive, has been selected as the site of the future school-house. The people have promised either themselves to erect, or assist in erecting, a suitable edifice. There are 120 children in the district.

St. John's, Harbour Island.—The school is in a tolerably efficient state. The number of scholars has recently diminished, owing to the payment of the school-fee being enforced. The school-house is hired and the rent paid by the master out of his salary. There is a spot of ground set apart for the site of a public school-house, but no funds available for its erection.

Clarence Town, Long Island.—After the death of the late efficient teacher, Mr. Morris, the school was conducted for a quarter by his sister, Miss Wells. It is now under the charge of an attentive and competent master. At the re-opening of the school great difficulty was experienced in obtaining the school fee; the parents of the children for some time refused to let them attend on this account. A mild but firm opposition to this feeling overcame the spirit of resistance. The school is now rapidly increasing in numbers, and improving. The school-house was built by the late teacher, and is used as a church.

New Providence, Boys' Central School.—This is the best conducted and most efficient school under the Board. The master is active and zealous. The mode of instruction hitherto pursued has been neither that of Bell, the Home and Colonial, nor Lancaster, in its purity, but a composite of selections from them all. The school is to be placed for the future under the immediate charge of the normal master, and conducted on the British and Foreign School Society's system. It will be used principally as a seminary for training teachers. Two have been in training during the last six months. One, Mr. Bannister, has already passed a satisfactory examination, and, after receiving a certificate of competency, proceeded to open a school at Grand Bahama. A nautical class, consisting of 14 boys, was formed in July last; one of 17 boys to learn tailoring; and another of 14 boys to be taught shoemaking. A part of the nautical class is constituted of boys belonging to the school in the eastern district of the island. There are four monitors, two of whom are paid a small weekly stipend. The last examination took place at Christmas, the results of which are thus briefly reported by the Secretary:—"The information elicited from the scholars generally was very creditable. The answers to the questions in the different subjects of examination were, on the average, prompt and correct. The only exception I should make is in relation to the nautical class, who, I conceived, evinced a very slight, if any knowledge at all, of navigation. The articles manufactured by the tailoring and shoemaking classes were neatly and well made, and afforded gratifying proofs of the industry and skill of the scholars. Prizes were awarded to 12 pupils for their general proficiency and good conduct.

The school-house is public property; it is fitted with class-rooms, and adapted to the British and Foreign School Society's mode of instruction.

Girls' Central School.—The discipline of this school is lax. The mistress has been employed in the office for near 10 years, and ought, from her experience, to be very capable. A class has been taught platting during the last quarter. Four monitors have been appointed, two of whom receive a weekly stipend. The last examination was unfavourable, as will appear from the following extract from the Secretary's report:—"I regret to say that the examination at the girls model school was not very satisfactory. The only subject on which the scholars

STATISTICS OF SCHOOLS in the BAHAMAS.

Name of the District.	Public School, and where situated.	Name of Teacher.	EXPENDITURE.						INCOME.	
			Master.	Mistress.	Mistress of the Infant School.	Monitors.	Sundries during the last Six Months.		Government Grant.	Fees during the last Six Months.
							Books and Stationery.	Repairs, Furniture, Apparatus, &c.		
			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Abaco.	Green Turtle Cay	Mr. Edgcombe	50 0 0	..	..	..	2 4 6	..	..	1 9 0
	Little Guano Cay	Mr. Barker	34 0 0	..	..	..	2 13 4½	..	..	3 10 8½
Andros Island	Cherokee Sound	Mr. Gwynn	34 0 0	..	..	..	1 18 2½	..	..	0 3 3
	Cookley's Town	Mr. Sweeting.	34 0 0	..	..	..	2 5 6½	..	..	..
		Mrs. Sweeting	..	5 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Crooked Island	Long Cay	Mr. Perrell	34 0 0	..	..	..	2 16 8½	..	..	1 6 3
Eleuthera.	Rock Sound	Mr. and Mrs. Wildgoos	70 0 0	..	..	..	5 0 8½	4 18 9½	..	1 19 3½
	Bluff Settlement	Mrs. Thompson	..	26 0 0	..	..	1 9 10	..	..	0 2 0
	Current ditto	Mrs. Elden	..	26 0 0	..	..	1 0 4	..	..	0 2 0
	Spanish Wells	Mr. Munroe	34 0 0	..	..	..	2 5 8	..	..	0 19 9
	Industry ditto	Mrs. Bethel	..	10 0 0	..	..	0 1 9	..	..	..
Exuma	Moss Town	Mrs. Young	..	26 0 0	..	..	1 19 1	..	..	..
Grand Bahama	Eight Mile Rock.	Mr. Bannister	34 0 0	..	..	..	2 18 2½	..	..	..
Harbour Island	St. John's	Mr. Higgs	78 0 0	..	..	..	0 18 9	..	..	2 9 5
Long Island	Clarence Town	Mr. Rea	34 0 0	..	..	..	2 15 0	..	..	0 18 0
New Providence	Boys' Central	Mr. Spence	125 0 0	..	..	1 5 0	3 18 7½	0 18 6	..	0 7 5
	Girls' Central.	Mrs. Mackay.	..	50 0 0	..	1 5 0	1 13 8	0 15 7½	..	0 11 6
	Eastern District	Mr. and Mrs. Stirrup	50 0 0	..	..	..	2 13 9½	..	..	1 1 9
	Western District	Miss Wyllly	..	..	35 0 0	1 5 0	1 0 2	..	..	0 2 6
	Grant's Town.	Mrs. Horton	..	..	35 0 0	1 5 0	2 4 6½	0 6 9	..	0 4 4
		Miss Horton	..	..	10 0 0	..	..	..	..	..
Ragged Island	Fox Hill	Mrs. Forbes	..	27 0 0	..	..	1 3 7½	0 4 0	..	1 1 11
St. Salvador	Duncan's Town	Miss Strachan	..	26 0 0	..	..	2 2 8	1 15 5	..	2 3 6
Turks Islands	North End	Mr. Wyllly	34 0 0	..	..	..	2 16 3	0 19 4½	..	1 5 0
	Grand Cay	Mr. Forbes	70 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 6 3
	Salt Cay	Mr. Morgan	50 0 0	..	..	1 5 0	3 1 4	..	..	0 16 6
Watling Island	Cockburn Town	Miss Farquharson	..	..	26 0 0	..	2 5 9	1 13 10	..	..

APPENDIX D.

BAHAMAS.
Appendix D.

REPORT of the TRUSTEES of the NASSAU PUBLIC LIBRARY and MUSEUM.

THE Trustees of the Nassau Library and Museum have the honour to report to your Honourable House, that in pursuance of the Act of Assembly for the establishment of the same, they have used their best endeavours for carrying into effect the provisions of the Act.

They applied to, and obtained permission from the Lieutenant-Governor, to make use of the large room, in the centre public building, hitherto used as a ball-room, in which they have erected presses for the reception of books, &c. &c., which they have furnished for the use of the members of the library and museum, the reading room, and the Agricultural Society. They have been fortunate in obtaining the sanction of the Trustees of the former Lending Library, to a junction of the two establishments, by which they have an accession of nearly five hundred volumes of valuable books, and they have with careful attention formed rules and regulations for the Government of the Institution which have been approved of by the Executive, and which, as far as they have had the means of judging, have given satisfaction to all interested in them.

They have obtained subscriptions to the establishment, to the amount of 120*l.* and they have received several valuable donations, both to the library and museum. They have sent to England for a carefully selected collection of books, to the amount of 150*l.*, the arrival of which they shortly expect, and they are happy to add, that from the ready support the Institution has received from all classes, the liberality of the Honourable House in its establishment, appears to be justly appreciated, and they have every reason to hope that it will continue to prosper, and will be as beneficial as it is creditable to the colony.

For the purpose of carrying out the intentions of the Legislature in this matter, it was considered absolutely necessary that an intelligent and trustworthy person should be appointed to attend daily as Librarian, and the Trustees were fortunate in obtaining the services of a gentleman on whose attention and ability they can confidently rely. They have not, however, the means of remunerating him without most injuriously diminishing the funds so much required for other purposes, and they therefore submit to your Honourable House the expediency of making such provision for the Librarian as they may think proper; as his time, however, will be entirely occupied by his duties as such from nine o'clock until four every day, they would take the liberty of suggesting that the sum of 60*l.* per annum would, in their opinion, be but a fair salary.

(Signed)

J. C. LEES,
G. C. ANDERSON.
C. R. NESBITT.
G. J. HANDFORD.
WM. MACHUE.
T. G. MEADOWS.

APPENDIX E.

Appendix E.

SIR,

Nassau, March 2, 1848.

IN obedience to the Governor's commands, signified to us in your letter of the 31st January, that we should furnish a report, on a system of prison discipline, combining instruction with punishment, we have the honour to request that you will lay before his Excellency the following observations:—

“As the prisons on the out-islands are, for the most part, very small establishments, calculated rather for the temporary detention of offenders than for their punishment or reformation, and are seldom or never used for carrying out the sentences of the General Court, the present report, though treating of the prison discipline of the Bahamas, will refer chiefly to the prison in this town.” We propose—

1st. To describe the system of discipline at present in force, which is almost exclusively penal.

2nd. To submit such alterations and improvements of this system as would, in our opinion, have the effect of making imprisonment tend to the reformation as well as the punishment of offenders.

3rd. To point out such alterations in the buildings now in use as are indispensably necessary for carrying out either the present system or the improved one we suggest.

The prisons of the Bahamas are governed by a code of regulations, founded on the prison rules of England, and approved by the Governor in Council on the 17th August, 1846.

The Committee of management, (consisting of the police magistrate and two other justices of the peace) have the power of making supplementary rules, which when similarly approved, have, as well as the original regulations, the force of law.

These rules enjoin labour, solitude, and instruction, owing to the defective construction of the prison, which we shall point out in the third section of the report, it is difficult, we may say impossible, to enforce either silence or solitude, particularly the latter.

The only means of instruction at present available to the prisoners consist of three services

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in the week by the chaplain, and the attendance for two hours on Sundays of a schoolmaster, who receives a remuneration of 10*l.* per annum.

The system of labour enforced at present is as follows :—

The male prisoners sentenced to hard labour are worked from sunrise until sunset on the public roads, in the charge of overseers.

The female prisoners of the same class are employed in grinding corn with the tread-mill, and in washing and mending clothes.

Both male and female prisoners, not sentenced to hard labour, are required to work within the walls of the prison; the females in mending clothes, the males in cleaning the buildings and the yards.

Having thus described the system of discipline in force, we will proceed, in pursuance of the plan we have laid down, to submit such alterations as we think it desirable should be made.

We consider the present system of instruction to be incomplete and inefficient; and we would recommend instead that some competent person be permanently employed within the prison walls in imparting industrial and general instruction to the prisoners, and in superintending and directing their labours.

We would further recommend the discountenance, when circumstances may permit it, of the system of hard labour on the roads, which is a mode of punishment, attended, in our opinion, with many disadvantages.

The expense of paying overseers is very considerable; but notwithstanding this it is difficult, even for the remuneration allowed, to secure the services of persons possessing the requisite discretion and powers of command.

The prisoners so taken out have also facilities of escape, and opportunities of intercourse, both with one another, and with their associates outside the walls, which produce very demoralizing effects, and render this species of punishment disregarded and ineffective. It is, moreover, so acceptable to the prisoners themselves, that instances have frequently occurred of prisoners committed for examination, or for imprisonment without hard labour, requesting as a favour to be allowed to go out with the labouring gang.

We think that a much greater effect, both as regards punishment and reformation, would be secured by confining each prisoner in a separate cell, not allowing him, either by day or by night, any intercourse with other prisoners, and rigidly requiring him to perform daily a certain task of useful labour, to be allotted to him by an officer such as we have described.

We may observe here that it would have a beneficial effect if the magistrates, as well as the general Court, were empowered by law, in the case of juvenile offenders, to award a moderate personal correction, in lieu of imprisonment.

We now come to the third part of our report, viz., the state of the present prison and its deficiencies.

This prison consists of two yards, divided by a high wall.

The southern yard contains the sailors' house and the octagon building, known by the name of the Gaol. This building, divided into 12 large cells, is devoted exclusively to the confinement of male prisoners, four or five of whom are locked up for the night in each cell for want of more accommodation.

This at once renders impracticable any system of silence and separation, such as we have referred to in the preceding report. These cells, having each two windows, might, by the erection of stone partitions, be doubled in number.

As, however, the average number of male prisoners may be stated at from 35 to 40, the accommodation would still be too limited.

This yard ought to contain 40 cells, with six or eight cells for punishment, and a storeroom and office for the gaoler.

Whether it be expedient to provide this extra number of cells by enlarging the octagon building, or by erecting another building, we do not feel competent to judge, and would, therefore, suggest the advantage of the civil engineer being informed what is wanted, and requested to submit a plan of it to the Governor.

The northern yard contains the turnkey's house, and the building formerly known as the workhouse. In this yard and building the female prisoners are confined. It contains altogether 18 cells, and four cells for punishment. The lower cells, however, are uninhabitable from damp. The upper ones are divided only by partitions of wood, through which the prisoners can easily converse together after they are locked up.

There are no rooms for the matron, who has, in consequence, to sleep outside the walls.

This building is so imperfect and dilapidated, that we can point out no improvement but that of building a new one.

We will, therefore, only state that this yard ought to contain 15 cells—five cells for punishment, and two rooms for the matron.

In concluding this report, we wish to observe that, in the second section, we have not submitted a matured plan, inasmuch as we are aware that, until the building is arranged in a much more ample scale than at present, it will be impossible properly to give effect to any such plan.

We beg to refer his Excellency to the excellent Report on Prison Discipline lately furnished by a Select Committee of the House of Lords, on the evidence of the judges of England, and other high authorities, and to state that we should take that document for our guide, if we were called upon to set forth the details of the plan, of which we have given merely the outline.

We are fully sensible that the alterations proposed in the third part of our report cannot be effected without a considerable outlay. As, however, it forms no part of our duty to consider this question in a financial point of view, and as we have been called upon by the Governor to

state our opinion of what was required, we have done so to the best of our ability, leaving it to his Excellency, in his wisdom, to decide how far it may be prudent or expedient to carry out the whole or any part of our suggestions.

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We have, &c.,

(Signed)

J. C. LEES, Chairman.
F. MACCARTHY.
WM. VESEY MUNNINGS.
G. ARMBRISTER.
STEPHEN DILLET.
C. T. PINDER.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

BARBADOS.

BARBADOS.

(No. 39.)

No. 9.

No. 9.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor REID to Earl GREY.

Windward Islands, Barbados,
May 24, 1848.

MY LORD,

(Received June 21, 1848.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Barbados Blue Book and Annual Report for the year 1847.

I have, &c.,

Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c.

(Signed)

W. REID, Governor.

Enclosure in No. 9.

Encl. in No. 9.

ANNUAL REPORT to accompany the BARBADOS BLUE BOOK for 1847.

ALONG with the Barbados Blue Book of 1847 I transmit the commencement of a work on the Statistics of the West Indies, undertaken by Mr. James Walker, Colonial Secretary. I felt it my duty to encourage and support Mr. Walker in this useful undertaking. He had collected and arranged statistical information for each of the Windward Islands; but the printer has failed this year to complete more than what relates to Barbados alone. West India Statistics.

I likewise transmit a copy of the Barbados Agricultural Reporter, from its commencement up to the end of 1847. A glance at the index of this work will show its value as conducive to the improvement of agriculture and the manufacture of sugar. The Barbados Agricultural Reporter has hitherto been carried on as a private undertaking, but it is now conducted by the Council of the General Agricultural Society, and its price has been reduced by the Society to one-half. I have endeavoured to combine the efforts of the several Agricultural Societies in the Windward Islands in supporting this work through the Lieutenant-Governors. This publication shows that there does exist here a strong desire to introduce improved systems of agriculture and in the manufacture of sugar. Agricultural Reporter.

During two different occasions within the last year the island was in danger of wanting food. The famine in Ireland, and scarcity of food elsewhere, was seriously felt in the West Indies, on account of the American shipping (usually bringing provisions here) carrying their produce to Europe. Food.

The alarm consequent on dearth of food has led to planting provisions in the island, as was formerly done, and which it is to be hoped will be kept up.

The rate of wages has been reduced, and throughout all classes frugality is practised from necessity. Wages.

I endeavoured on my first arrival here to revive a Temperance Society, which had been before unsuccessfully attempted. This Society has now taken Temperance.

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Itinerant Courts of
Appeal.

root in the midst of distilleries, and promises to effect a great social revolution in West Indian habits.

Amongst the subjects of most importance to which attention has been drawn in the Windward Islands during the past year is that of reviving the subject of the establishment of either Circuit Courts of Judicature, or Itinerant Courts of Appeal. My object has been to invite discussion on this important object, and as there are difficulties in finding funds at present, even for the most useful purposes, to avoid seeking for an immediate decision on this question. The subject is one requiring much consideration. The attention of the judges within the several islands of the Windward Government is now particularly directed to it. I hope this course may lead before long to improving the present judicial system in the West Indies.

The Imperial Act of 1836 contemplated the necessity of all the Windward Islands combining to establish a Supreme Circuit Court; but it is evident that any single island might procure for itself the valuable advantage of appealing to judges of the neighbouring islands, when the parties are not satisfied with the decisions pronounced by the local judges.

I am not myself competent to give an opinion as to the extent to which the existence of the old French system of laws in St. Lucia might render it difficult to extend to the inhabitants there the advantage of an Itinerant Court of Appeal. But I cannot doubt that we ought to give the subject serious consideration, with a view to having that island occasionally visited by other judges, empowered to review the proceedings of the local Court. Such visits would further tend to the general improvement of the laws of St. Lucia.

I shall here insert a paper on the subject of Itinerant Courts of Appeal, containing the views of Chief Justice Sir Bowcher Clarke.

LETTER from Sir BOWCHER CLARKE, Chief Justice of Barbados, to GOVERNOR REID.

SIR,

Chambers, Barbados, May 20, 1848.

I HAVE hitherto purposely refrained from addressing your Excellency respecting the amendment in the administration of justice in the colonies under your government, on which we have frequently conversed, because I felt the present time to be most inauspicious for the success of any measure involving even a trifling additional outlay; but as you have recently expressed a wish that I should no longer delay, I will not permit mere prudential reasons to deter me from bringing the subject officially under your consideration.

It is quite foreign to my purpose to discuss the various plans of judicial reform which have been proposed for us from time to time; nor have I any intention to comment on the recommendations made by the Commissioners of Legal Inquiry, in obedience to the instructions of the Colonial Minister, under date the 1st November 1822, the chief of which have been embodied in an Act of the Imperial Parliament, have been accepted in principle by the Colonial Legislatures, and only await from them the requisite funds to be brought into operation. I must also confess that if I saw any probability of the adoption of their system I should be inclined to pause before I ventured, on my own responsibility, to make the following suggestions.

It may be proper further to premise that it is not my object to alter the Constitution of any of our existing Courts, but to aid their more complete and satisfactory workings; and I am persuaded that nothing would so immediately and powerfully tend to promote this most desirable end as the establishment of an efficient and easily accessible appellate jurisdiction over them for those cases especially in which the value or amount in dispute is under 500*l.* sterling (the limit fixed by the Royal Instructions for Appeals to the Queen in Council), to which parties dissatisfied with their decisions might be enabled promptly to resort, without incurring the ruinous delays and expenses of applications to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

The specific proposition then which I beg to submit to your Excellency's favourable notice is, the formation of an itinerant Court of Appeal from the decisions of the several Civil Courts under your Government, in cases in which the value or amount in dispute in any of those Courts does not exceed the sum of 500*l.* sterling, exclusive of costs. I venture to assert that there is no difficulty in accomplishing this; that we have fitting materials within our reach; that it would be most appropriately composed of the several chief judges of these colonies; and that it should be so organized that any two of these judges should be authorized, in the manner to be hereafter pointed out, to constitute such Court of Appeal for either of the colonies other than those of which they are respectively judges.

The only important alteration in our present judicial system which the introduction of the proposed scheme would necessarily cause would be the abolition of the several Courts of Error, composed of the Governor and Council of each colony; an abolition which, I believe, would not be regretted by the members of those Courts, and which has been already practically effected by the Act of the Imperial Parliament, 7th and 8th Vict., c. 69, which permits appeals from the colonies to be made, without the intervention of the Colonial Courts of Error, to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

Assuming that there is no valid objection to the principles of the measure, the points to be considered for carrying it into execution are chiefly the following:—

- 1st. The mode of appointment of the proposed Court.
- 2nd. The regulation of its visits to the colonies, or circuit.
- 3rd. The expenses attending its sittings.

1st. There are several modes of constituting such a Court. It may be done by Act of Parliament; but this does not appear to me necessary, as there is nothing in the proposal at variance with the Act 6 Will. IV., c. 17, so as to render an application to Parliament indispensable in order to obtain an alteration of that law. Secondly, the Crown possessing by prerogative the right of erecting Courts of justice, it may possibly be done by a Royal Charter of justice, and the functions and powers of the Court could be very accurately defined in the charter. Thirdly, it might be done by legislative enactments in the several colonies inclined to adopt it, subject of course to the confirmation of the Crown; and I am of opinion that it will be found necessary to have recourse to this power, because in most of these colonies the Courts of Error, which would be dispensed with by its introduction, are for the most part regulated if not established by local Acts that have received the Royal Assent; and although there can be no doubt that Parliament possesses the power of repealing or modifying such Acts, the question is a very different one, whether the Crown can by a charter abrogate Courts the constitutions of which are confirmed and their practice and process regulated by the legislative authority of chartered colonies. At any rate I would not desire to raise such a question unnecessarily, and it would be very imprudent to do so in this instance, since it is from our local Legislatures alone that we can expect to receive the funds necessary to effect the objects contemplated. Lastly it might be done by the joint operation of a charter of justice constituting the Court and defining its jurisdiction and powers, and of local laws in the colonies removing impediments to its efficient working, and providing the means for bringing it into immediate operation; and this I think the preferable course, but the selection will be best made by the superior judgment of the colonial minister.

- 2nd. The regulation of its visits to the colonies or its circuits.

This power, involving as it will the appointment of the judges who are from time to time to sit in each island, should be defined so as not to admit of any doubt, and it seems to me can only be vested in the Governor-in-Chief, who will alone be able so to exercise it as not to cause any unnecessary interference with the business of the Courts below, and to suit, whenever practicable, the personal conveniences of the judges. I do not, however, think it would be expedient that regular circuits at specified times should be appointed for the commencement of the proposed system; I would rather advise its being applied at the outset as occasion may require, and that whenever there is business requiring the presence of the Court in any colony, the Governor-in-Chief shall have the power to send it there for its dispatch. By this arrangement much waste of time and expense may be avoided, improper appeals rendered less likely, and a more prompt remedy applied to all cases really needing one; and in process of time, if experience of its working shall demand it, a regular circuit system may be established for it. It would be necessary at once, however, to limit the number of visits to any one colony in the course of the year, and in order to enable the Governor-in-Chief to regulate these in the most satisfactory manner, it should be incumbent on each judge to give immediate notice to the Lieutenant-Governor of the colony, of every appeal which is made from his decision, as soon as it is perfected by the necessary security for prosecuting it, and for costs, to the end that he may communicate with the Governor-in-Chief, and enable him to make provision for its hearing.

3rd. The expenses attending its sittings, the difficulty of obtaining the large funds to effect all the judicial reforms which have been deemed necessary in our judicature, has hitherto been an insurmountable obstacle to their introduction; and I should not think of proposing any scheme at the present eventful crisis which would require any appreciable addition to the burdens of any colony. All that is needed would be to provide for the transit of the judges, their accommodation while in the island to which they were sent, and such remuneration as would be fairly proportioned to the labour cast upon them when called on to perform this extra duty.

With respect to the first and second items, the expense would be very trifling indeed; and in regard to the third, I am persuaded it could not present any real impediment to the successful working of the measure if the principle is approved of. My own sincere sentiments on the subject are that I would sacrifice much to provide for the suitors of my Courts a right to a prompt and comparatively inexpensive remedy for correcting any errors of my own judgment, being certain that I should thus be best enabled to perform the duties of my office with increased comfort to myself, with greater satisfaction to the public, and credit to the character of the Courts over which I preside.

I would propose then that the Legislature of each colony in your Excellency's Government should be invited to place at the disposal of the Governor-in-Chief the annual sum of (200*l*.) two hundred pounds sterling, to form a fund for carrying out this scheme. I am satisfied it will be found quite sufficient to defray all necessary and reasonable expenses; and that it shall be left to the Governor-in-Chief, in every instance in which the Court is called into action, to adjust and arrange its expenditure as he shall see fit.

It may possibly be objected that the contribution of each island should not be the same. But the whole sum required is so small in amount that it would be difficult to find any unobjectionable scale of apportionment; while the records of the Privy Council with respect to appeals from colonies will abundantly prove that the size, the condition, and population of a

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colony afford no just criterion for estimating the number of appeals which may be expected from it.

In sketching the preceding outline for consideration I have avoided all minor matters of mere detail; of these there are many, which will be best disposed of by the several members of the proposed Court, should your Excellency's recommendation of it secure the principle a favourable reception from Earl Grey. There are, however, one or two points which it will be better at once to notice.

In the first place, I do not anticipate that any difficulty will be experienced in undertaking the duty of supervising the decisions of the Courts in the islands of Barbados, St. Vincent's, Grenada, and Tobago; for although distinctions exist in their laws, and in the practice of their Courts, arising from the different times and modes of their settlement as colonies, yet they all possess that similarity to the laws of England which is necessarily incident to a common origin; nor would the introduction of greater uniformity and a nearer approximation to the mother country in their codes and the proceedings of their respective tribunals, which would gradually but certainly follow in the wake of such a Court, be attended with small benefits to their inhabitants.

With regard to St. Lucia it will be worthy of consideration whether it should be dealt with in the same manner as is provided by the 23rd section of the 6th Will. IV., c. 17, or whether it ought not at once to be included in the same scheme, forming as it does a portion of the same Government. I confess the experience I had in the affairs of that colony when Crown officer of this induces me to hazard an opinion that the latter course is the preferable one, as likely most speedily to introduce British law and practice into its Courts.

I trust also I shall not be misunderstood or be deemed presumptuous in stating my opinion that the knowledge of colonial institutions, the acquaintance with the existing relations of colonial society, its customs and manners, possessed by the proposed members of the Court, all conduce to render them especially adapted to the performance of such supervising duties in the sister colonies; and will, I believe, on that very account, be found to make their appointment acceptable to their respective communities.

Your Excellency will observe that I have not proposed to give jurisdiction to this Appeal Court in cases which as a matter of right may be brought directly before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council; because it might be deemed unbecoming in me to propose to interfere with that high Court, especially since that great boon was conferred on the colonies of the Empire of abolishing the necessity for two re-hearings of a cause by permitting a direct appeal to its authority from any colony; and because I think that in the cases in which the proposed Court has jurisdiction its decisions should be final. I have, therefore, named as a limit that sum which has long been assigned to these colonies by the royal instructions, viz. 500*l.*; but I consider this a question peculiarly in the province of the Colonial Minister to decide; and, adverting to the precedents established by different charters of justice for other colonies, it will be seen that the sum or value for which appeals may be made to England varies considerably, as, for instance, in Gibraltar the amount specified in its charter of 1830 is 300*l.*; in Van Diemen's Land its charter of 1831 fixes it 1000*l.*; and in New South Wales the amount is 2000*l.* sterling by letters patent of 1823. There is, therefore, no settled rule on the subject; and the superior judgment of the Colonial Minister will, I believe, best decide these very important points, whether the limit shall remain at 500*l.* as at present fixed, or whether it shall be increased, and to what amount, the new Court having authority finally to dispose of such specified cases? or, whether the parties in a cause shall not have the option, when the value exceeds a given amount, to apply to and abide by its decision, or to go at once in the accustomed course to the Privy Council. It is of great importance, in my view of these questions, to avoid the possibility of a double appeal.

You will also perceive that I propose to confine this jurisdiction to civil causes; it will be ample time for us to include criminal cases when the mother country shall have decided on that difficult question for herself.

It will be essentially necessary for the judges to possess the power of framing rules and regulations, not only for the practice to be observed in the Appeal Court when assembled, but also to make general rules, to be binding on the several Courts below, for regulating the terms of appeals, and the security for prosecuting them, as well as for requiring the judge to furnish notes of the evidence and the reasons of his judgment in every case where his decision is to be reviewed. They will also require authority not only to establish a table of costs for the proceedings before them, but should, I think, have power to adjust the costs incurred in the Court below in the matter of the appeal. It will require, especially at the commencement, large powers in this particular to be vested in the Court of Appeal, to check unnecessary applications to it in frivolous cases.

I am not desirous of troubling your Excellency with any further observations at present. I have endeavoured to give an outline of what I consider a very simple, and believe to be a perfectly practicable, scheme for materially improving our colonial judicature.

I forbear to enumerate many particular advantages which I believe will be derived from its adoption. Its principal, and I hope I may be permitted without offence to add its most beneficial effect will be to place in the hands of Her Majesty's representative in these colonies the power of causing the decisions of their civil tribunals to be reviewed on the spot, at any time that the interests of suitors may demand it, by judges possessed of the advantages of experience in the practice of colonial Courts, but knowing nothing of the parties or merits of the particular case, save what they legitimately derive from the records and documents of the cause itself. I cannot doubt that such a tribunal would speedily conciliate for itself the support of public

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opinion; that it would tend to create for the decisions of our Courts a general confidence, not only among ourselves, but among that large class in the mother country which is directly interested in the honour and welfare of these colonies; and last, and not least to my mind, it would ultimately relieve the general character of our jurisprudence from the unmerited stain of particular disparagements to it. At any rate I trust your Excellency will be satisfied that I can have no other object in view in submitting these proposals to you than an earnest desire to improve the administration of justice, and to elevate the character of those tribunals with which my own reputation is so immediately connected.

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Governor Reid, I have, &c.,
&c. &c. (Signed) R. BOWCHER CLARKE,
Chief Justice of Barbados.

Another step towards improvement in the Courts is now in progress, by which it is proposed to enable the Chief Justice of each island to sit alone in the Court of Chancery as Vice Chancellor; the Governor still being the Chancellor, and retaining the power to sit and preside in that Court. Chancery Court.

The Act constituting the three stipendiary magistrates judges of an assistant Court of Appeal has been of great value to Barbados. This Court hears appeals from the decisions of the justices of the peace and police magistrates, and assists the Governor in investigating complaints preferred by petitioners. It has been proposed to extend this system to Grenada; and it is to be desired that it should be extended to all the other islands, provided a sufficient number of gentlemen can be found amongst the stipendiary magistrates fit for judges of an Appeal Court. Assistant Court of Appeal.

I look upon another proposition, which I made in 1847, as one of great importance to the colonies, and deserving further consideration. This proposition is, that any salaried civil officer serving in the colonies who may be accused of conduct unworthy of a British Crown officer, and not choosing to resign, shall be amenable by law before a tribunal composed of officers of as many different branches of the Queen's Service as may be conveniently brought together. I think such Courts should be empowered to pronounce an opinion and award a sentence, as in Naval Courts, reserving to the Crown the power to remit or mitigate sentences. In the Ordnance branch of the public service all civil officers serving abroad are amenable before a Court-martial. I can see no sufficient reason why salaried civil officers of the Colonial department serving in the colonies should not be made amenable to some tribunal empowered by law to investigate charges alleged against them. The visits of the admiral to each of the stations of the West Indies would there give facility to these trials, by affording officers to sit on the Courts, and giving the means of conveyance from other islands to military or civil officers as members. Colonial Officers.

Formal inquiries made in this manner would effectually repress ill conduct, and put an end to that system, long justly complained of, in officers who have misconducted themselves in distant colonies going direct to the Colonial Office in the capacity of injured men.

I found the schools generally in Barbados in a very low state, and not at all suited to the wants of a community just emerged from slave institutions. The Barbados schools are but ill calculated to render workmen more intelligent, or to make education attractive. The occupation of the planter and manufacturer of sugar must henceforward be regarded as a scientific pursuit, and the rudiments of those sciences required for it should be taught in the schools. Education.

My efforts have been therefore directed towards correcting as far as I can what seems defective in this respect. In several of the schools practical geometry suited for mechanics is now taught. Rudimentary chemistry is taught and practically explained in one of the schools. In all the higher schools chemistry will, I hope, be henceforward made a part of the system of instruction. At Harrison's free school a library and a collection of philosophical instruments are formed for the instruction of the pupils. Efforts made to introduce industrial training into the schools have not yet been successful. Before this can succeed there requires to be formed a Board of education, in which laymen shall take the lead; which Board shall cause the schools to be inspected, and which shall distribute aid from the public revenue to the schools only in proportion as it is deserved.

The Rev. Mr. Rawle, principal of Coddington College, has himself remodelled a school for children of the working classes, which it is to be hoped will become a model school for the whole island, and which promises to be extensively useful by introducing a better system of teaching.

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I regard the bookseller as equally important with the schoolmaster in furthering the improvement of the West Indies, and the general diffusion of useful books as an essential step towards the advancement of the West Indian communities. Hence the reason why I have earnestly and publicly urged the formation in each of the islands of public libraries free to all persons alike. During the past year public libraries on this principle have been established in the islands of Barbados, St. Lucia, and Grenada. Wherever useful books are disseminated I observe that a desire to learn to read them follows. In Bridgetown, Barbados, there are two booksellers; and attempts are making to establish booksellers in Grenada, St. Vincent, and St. Lucia.

Emigration to
St. Lucia.

I stated last year that I regard the prospect of settling the spare lands of St. Lucia from Barbados as a subject of much interest to both islands. The most eligible portion of that island for Barbados settlers is the southern part, where a small colony is in fact already established. I continue to be of opinion that branches from the families of Barbados planters will in time extend their operations to St. Lucia, and cultivate the lands they may purchase with Barbadian settlers. But there has been no further emigration during the past year. At present the high prices charged by the mail steamers for the deck passage checks the communication between the two islands. The most eligible locations lie between Souffriere and Vieux Fort, places which will be found on the annexed map of St. Lucia.

Burnt portion of
Bridgetown.

A large portion of the town of Bridgetown, burned in 1845, remains unbuilt. The space was purchased by legislative enactment, and laid out on an improved plan, to be resold in lots for building; but commercial failures, and the suspension of cash payments by the West India Bank, have prevented purchasers from coming forward, so that progress is suspended.

Revenue.

The same causes, together with the general depression of West Indian affairs, by diminishing the revenue have left the treasury empty.

Railway.

An Act, passed and confirmed to give power to a Company to make a railway in Barbados, will expire at the end of the present year, owing to the number of shares required not having been taken.

Gaols.

There exists a general desire that the system of prison discipline and the management of the gaols should be placed on the most improved footing consistent with the means of the island; and an Act has been passed for the erection of a new gaol; but it is impossible, in the present state of the colony, to contemplate commencing any new work of magnitude.

Shipping and
Seamen.

The population of Barbados is supposed to be fast increasing. The time is already arrived when it would be desirable that a larger portion of its people should engage in seafaring pursuits. I have drawn the attention of the Legislature to the subject of binding boys apprentices to the sea, who, by demanding parochial relief, become burdens on the public. I pointed out how an island importing a great part of its provisions, and with a population exceeding 120,000, many of whom are well fitted for seamen, is without ships of its own, and that the inhabitants are therefore doubly dependent on others for the means of subsistence. There is here a large class of indigent persons of European descent better fitted for navigation than for tropical agriculture, and it would be for the benefit of individuals of this class as well as for the general interests, that they should thus occupy themselves.

Emigration
Africa.

A society has been formed here for the purpose of establishing a settlement on the coast of Africa, and maintaining a communication between it and the West Indies. This is a new and interesting reason why the island should form seamen and possess ships of its own.

Marriage.

During last year a recommendation was made that lands which escheat to the Crown should be given to the next of kin of legitimate birth, and this is a principle which I think should be applied generally to the West Indies.

Its object is to assist the organization of society into families as the foundation of all social order. I am given to understand that the number of marriages contracted does not show the progress making in this respect, and that marriage is too often contracted in order to obtain legal powers over younger women. Illegitimate ties with a plurality of women are maintaining many social evils in the West Indies which Government should strive to diminish.

Lighthouse.

During the last year an Act passed for providing for the maintenance of a lighthouse, which had been for many years under discussion. It is a subject interesting to the general navigation of this part of the Atlantic, being the

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most windward part of the West India Islands, rather than to the island BARBADOS. itself.

The local currency is still in existence here, but a bill has been introduced into the House of Assembly to abolish it, and introduce the sterling account in its stead. Currency.

The following memoranda relative to hurricanes explain the signals concerted last year to give warning of the approach of storms. I have endeavoured to explain in what way ships leaving port at the setting in of a storm should be steered under different circumstances, and how houses should be barricaded against the wind. Hurricanes.

Memoranda relative to Hurricanes.

A barometer is kept and registered at the principal police station at Bridgetown, Barbados, and notice will be given to the captain of the port when it falls. On the captain of the port rests the responsibility of causing signals to be hoisted, that the barometer indicates bad weather.

One ball at the mast head of the signal posts is to signify that the barometer is falling, and should be carefully watched.

If the barometer continues to fall, and the weather appears threatening, a second ball will be hoisted at the mast head.

As the indications of the weather become alarming, these two balls will be gradually lowered, until they are only half-mast high.

As soon as the barometer begins to rise again, the two balls will begin to be slowly rehoisted, so as to be again at the mast head when the barometer shall have risen one-tenth of an inch.

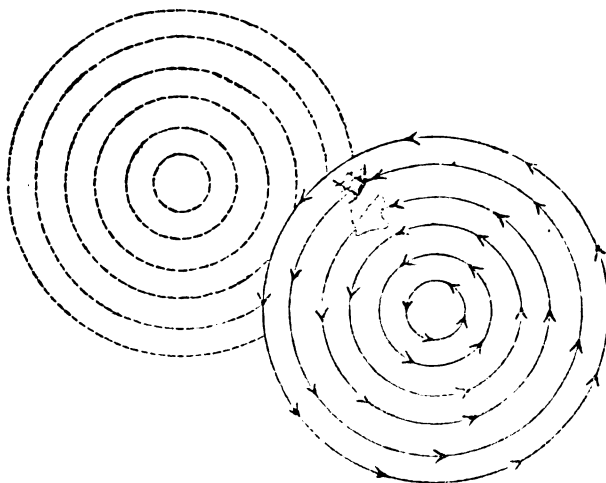
When the barometer shall have risen two-tenths of an inch, then one ball will be taken off, and the other be left until the storm shall have passed over.

Hurricanes being whirlwinds, the wind in the circuit of its revolution blows from every point of the compass within the circuit of the whirlwind. The veering of the wind is owing to the whirlwind's progress. Hence the reason, why the trade wind is often reversed during these tempests.

Ships riding at anchor in Carlisle Bay, unless their commanders prefer to remain there, cannot put to sea too early after the first indication of a hurricane.

When the wind veers from north-east towards east with a falling barometer, it may be expected to become south-east and south-south-east, and in this case the centre of the storm would be passing on the southward of the island.

In the following figure, the centre of a hurricane, coming from the east-south-east direction, and moving in the direction of St. Lucia, is supposed to be passing on the south side of Barbados:—

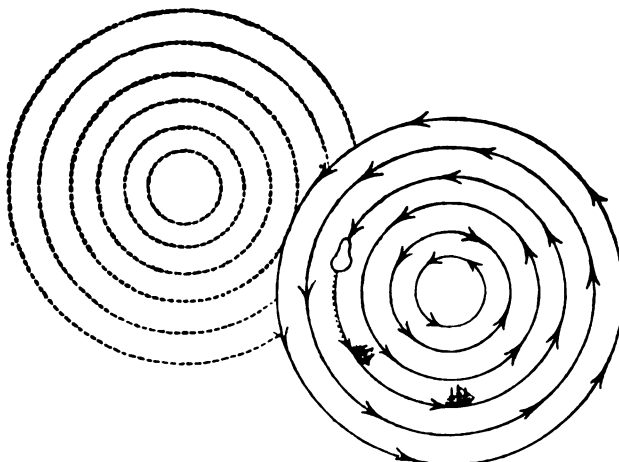


When the trade wind changes to north, and to north by west, with a falling barometer, the wind may be expected to become north-west and to veer to west, and perhaps even to south-west. In this case the centre of the storm would be passing to the northward of the island.

When the wind changes to north, and blows steadily from that quarter, it may be expected to change suddenly to the south; in this case the centre of the storm would pass over the island. Both these last cases will be understood by an inspection of the annexed diagram, in which the concentric circles

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marked by continuous lines are intended to show a hurricane setting in; whereas the dotted circles are intended to represent the position of the same hurricane after having passed over Barbados:—



In either case, ships remaining too long at anchor would be in danger of becoming embayed on a lee shore.

The hurricanes which have passed over Barbados, and of which we have any precise records, have all come from the eastward or south-eastward. When the centre is expected to pass on the northward of the island, or over the island, ships quitting Carlisle Bay should endeavour to run to the southward and south-eastward, by scudding in the first instance. But when the centre is expected to pass on the southward or south-west side of Barbados, a ship should go to the northward, and come to the wind on the starboard tack, otherwise it might sail into the vortex of the storm, as may be seen by referring to the first diagram. By keeping to the eastward, whilst the storm is moving to the westward, ships will sooner be out of a hurricane.

The same rules, in some degree modified on account of the other windward islands forming a chain, apply also to them.

The earliest indication of a coming storm is sometimes a heavy swell of the sea, caused by the storm at a distance. When the Barbados hurricane of 1831 was passing over St. Lucia, the swell of the sea raised by that storm was felt as far as the Bermudas, and broke against the south shore of those islands.

A severe storm which passed over the Bahamas and Bermuda Islands at the end of January, 1845, sent a swell to the West Indies so heavy as to endanger the "Euridice" frigate, at anchor in St. John's Harbour, Antigua, the wind blowing but lightly at Antigua at the time.

When a storm comes from the east, it will set in at Barbados with the wind at north; when it comes from the south-east, it will set in at Barbados with the wind at north-east. The north-east and the north sides of houses are, therefore, the sides which should be first barricaded, whilst the opposite doors and windows might with safety be left open. They should be barricaded in succession, according to the way in which the wind veers round. The same rules apply to the other windward islands.

That great storms revolve in different directions in the northern and in the southern hemispheres is now an established fact. In the northern hemisphere they revolve from right to left, thus: ☺ In the southern hemisphere they revolve from left to right, thus: ☻

Militia.

The militia law in force in Barbados is an Act passed in 1839, for consolidating and amending former Acts.

As Barbados is an island without mountains and with good roads, I have recommended a more powerful island artillery to be organized, and that a law be passed by which field cannon may be made moveable with celerity by means of the estate horses, mules, cattle, and harness.

I have pointed out that the field cannon should be drawn a little back from the seashore; that the depôts of spare arms and ammunition, instead of being left by the seaside, should be placed in the police stations least easy of access to invaders.

I have likewise pointed out the necessity for troops in action being supplied with spare ammunition. This essential service is overlooked in all the colonial

militia laws which I have seen, and it should be provided for by arrangements made beforehand.

I have recommended the foundation of an engineer company for each regiment of militia, to be instructed how defences are to be made in haste, in presence of invaders. My own experience in war has taught me the value of infantry thus instructed, and provided with implements for strengthening posts which they may have to defend.

In Barbados, which has neither woods or mountains, but which is full of strong buildings, the crowbar would be the implement most wanted; but amongst the wooded mountains of the other windward islands the axe would be the principal implement for constructing defences.

From the sea shore inwards the island of Barbados rises as it were in steps, forming a succession of cliffs presenting favourable positions for defence. These cliffs, and the table land between them, are intersected by deep gullies; combined, they form remarkable military features, somewhat complicated, and therefore every officer of militia should examine them, and make himself well acquainted with their military advantage for defence.

It has been proposed to construct a sanitary station for the troops on Gun Hill, making it a defensive barrack. The highest ground in Barbados is about 1100 feet high; Gunhill being somewhat more than 700 feet. Sanitary Station.

The difference of temperature between the garrison at the level of the sea and the high land is about four or five degrees of Fahrenheit; but it is probable that the sanitary advantage of the higher ground in Barbados for Europeans does not depend so much on diminished temperature as on equal temperature during night and day.

The island is scarcely large enough to cause regular diurnal land and sea breezes. Nevertheless, the denser cool air of the heights descends after sunset, producing a disagreeable chilling sensation to those persons who have passed the heat of the day in the lower level.

It is deserving of notice that the poor whites, long existing in great numbers in the island, have by degrees established themselves along the windward shore, or upon the heights I allude to. Unfortunately the garrisons in the West Indies are almost every where placed to leeward.

When we reflect how slow mankind has always been in changing established habits, I think too much has been expected of the West India planter, towards throwing off old habits in agriculture and in the manufacture of sugar, in the short space of time which has elapsed since the emancipation of the slaves. Before men will make changes, they must be satisfied that they are to derive advantages from them. The benefits which result from improved general education, though sure in their effects, are but gradual, and the period of a generation will probably pass before marked benefits will result from the diffusion of education. Agricultural Improvement.

Few things strike a stranger more on his arrival at Barbados than the bad state of the working cattle, and seeing 10 and sometimes 12 weak oxen drawing in a waggon. The same number are put to the plough. The cattle are generally of a small breed, and much out of condition, which seems attributable both to the scarcity of sufficient food, and to the want of shelter from the sun and rain.

The cultivation of pasture grasses suited to the climate is not made a study, yet it is one which I think might be studied with great advantage to the planter. By the general cultivation of sugar in Barbados the best natural grasses seem to be subdued, and are now almost eradicated, whilst the hardiest have survived; and these are of an inferior description.

On the future prospects of the planter I need say but little, since this subject has been publicly inquired into in England. I shall confine myself to recording the opinion I already gave in general terms on the 26th February, 1848, supported by the information which I have collected and transmitted, that the cost of making sugar from free labour is greatly beyond the cost of making it by slave labour, that sugar cultivation cannot yet withstand competition on equal terms with slave labour, and that freedom requires to be nursed with protection.

For Gov. Reid's Despatch, Feb. 26, 1848, *vide* Seventh Report Select Committee, Sugar and Coffee Planting, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed, April 6, 1848, No. 245, App., p. 282. Ditto, House of Lords, Sessional Paper, 1848, No. 250, p. 253.

WM. REID, Governor.

Barbados, May 24, 1848.

GRENADA.

No. 10.

GRENADA.

(No. 15.)

No. 10.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor REID to Earl GREY.

Barbados, April 18, 1848.

(Received May 23, 1848.)

MY LORD,

'Blue Book,

1847.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book for the island of Grenada, for the year 1847, together with the Lieutenant-Governor's Annual Report.

I learned in Grenada that the Metaire system, as applied to the cultivation of the sugar-cane, was increasing, not from choice, but from necessity, by those planters who could not command labour for hire.

The most interesting experiment of the Metaire system which has come under my notice is one making by the Hon. Henry J. Ross, in the cultivation of cocoa in Grenada. Mr. Ross is himself the director of this experiment. He appears to have made his Metaire tenants comprehend that their own interests and his are identical.

By a Return made for me, there appear to be 120 estates, of which 21 have been abandoned, and of the 120 owners or mortgagees, or receivers in possession, 47 are resident, and 73 absent.

I have, &c.,

WM. REID, Governor.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 10. (No. 148.)

Enclosure in No. 10.

Government House, Grenada,

April 6, 1848.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of Grenada for the year 1847.

Present State and Prospects of the Colony.

Present state and prospects of the Colony.

Having in my Despatches accompanying the statistical reports of the stipendiary magistrates, given, from time to time, my opinions on the social and moral state, and on the prospects of the colony, it will be superfluous for me to repeat those observations. The past year has been one of much depression to the agricultural interest, and the future position of the colony is considered with gloom and apprehension. I should rejoice to be able to report that the exertions of the proprietors were supported by any buoyant hope of future prosperity; but the full effect of the great changes still operating on all pursuits and sources of industry in these colonies, are regarded with great and increasing anxiety. It cannot be expected, under these circumstances, that improvements involving an expenditure of capital should be entered upon.

This island is thinly populated, offering great advantages to the peasantry and persons engaged in manual labour, tending, however, on the other hand, to increase the difficulty of procuring continuous and steady labour, so essential, in a tropical country, for the ordinary operations of the plantation. The difficulties arising from the scarcity and high price of labour during the year, were aggravated by the diminished price of the staple produce in the home markets, and by the monetary crisis, which deprived the planters of the ready means of providing for the punctual payment of the wages of the labourers. The peasantry expect fortnightly or monthly payments of wages, and an irregularity in meeting this demand very shortly extinguishes the cultivation of an estate.

Legislative Measures.

Legislative Measures.

Few legislative measures were adopted during the year. One, important in moral principle, is an Act for the prevention of offences by insane persons, for establishing a lunatic asylum, and for the better care of paupers in that state. No asylum has yet been provided under the authority of this Act. The magistrates in session are charged with the execution of that duty, and a building was recom-

mended by them to be licensed by me; but on reference to proper medical authorities, I found the site to be unsuitable, and was obliged to withhold my assent. The difficulty of meeting with a suitable building, prevents the immediate selection of an asylum, the nature of such building being of course of great consequence, as violence may be apprehended from persons in that unhappy state. The principle, however, is recognised and must be enforced. In the mean time, there is no other place of security for dangerous lunatics, than the common gaol in St. George's; and in that there are three such persons, one of whom has just been reported to me to be in a fit state to be discharged, and will, in due course, be released. An establishment for one or two lunatics only, requiring officers and servants and therefore considerable outlay, induces the consideration whether that expense may be avoided; and it has occurred to me that an asylum at the joint expense of several colonies, might be more appropriate for the circumstances of the times and more advantageous to the sufferers themselves.

Immigration.

Immigration.

The immigration which has taken place during the past year, has been confined to 438 Portuguese from Madeira, 274 of the number being adults, and the remaining 164 under 14 years of age. The bounty paid in respect of these, amounts to 1186*l*. The number imported by one foreign vessel greatly exceeded the proportion allowed by the Passengers' Act of Great Britain; and I have recommended to the Assembly that the Immigration Act should be amended by withholding the payment of bounty on immigrants arriving in foreign vessels, carrying a larger number than is allowed by the Passengers' Act, and on immigrants arriving from Madeira in vessels clearing from that port from April to September inclusive; as well as the appointment of a medical officer to inspect such immigrants on their arrival, and to prevent the payment of bounty on any who may have been embarked in a known state of disease. My suggestion in reference to the period during which emigration from Madeira into this colony should be prohibited, resulted from the inquiries instituted by me on the receipt of Earl Grey's Despatch, No. 17, St. Vincent, 1st May, 1847; and I annex hereto, the copy of a medical report carefully prepared by Staff Surgeon Connell and two other medical officers whom I selected to inquire into the subject.

The circumstances of the colony do not lead me to suppose that there will be any considerable increase of immigrants at the expense of the Colonial Government or by private enterprise.

Domestic and Commercial.

I subjoin an abstract, prepared by the Colonial Secretary, showing the quantity of sugar manufactured in the several parishes in Grenada, in the years 1828, 1829, 1830, 1835, and from the year 1838 to the year 1847; also a return from the Customs relative to the shipping and trade of the colony, and an abstract of the revenue and expenditure of the colony during the last year.

Domestic and Commercial.

Quantity of Sugar Manufactured since 1828.
Trade and Shipping.
Revenue and Expenditure.

Education.

I regret I have no favourable report to offer on the subject of education. I have communicated to the Assembly Earl Grey's Despatch on this subject, calling their attention to the strong sense entertained by his Lordship of the importance of spreading the knowledge and use of the English language, by all practicable means, through every class of the population. The efficacy of the infant schools in promoting this object has also been brought by me under the consideration of the Assembly; and, in addressing them, I have earnestly invited their attention to the expediency of increasing the means of instruction, and placing the schools which are established, or assisted by legislative aid, under due inspection. The attendance of children at the schools in the rural districts, is represented as irregular; but the central school in the town of St. George, and the Wesleyan school there, have each a considerable number of scholars.

Education.

Considerations arising from the Slave Trade.

In conclusion, I would beg leave to remark, that it may be hoped that the low price of tropical products will discourage the Slave Trade, and lead to more important consequences than any attempt to prevent that traffic by force; and if these colonies were presently in a position to compete with slave labour, they must be benefited by a policy producing that result. In the mean time, it would

Considerations arising from the Slave Trade.

80

72 REPORTS EXHIBITING THE PAST AND PRESENT

GRENADA.

appear advisable that their produce should be relieved from any burden, except such necessary fiscal duties as the general circumstances of the empire may require to be imposed ; for if the price of such produce shall not enable the proprietors to give reasonable wages to their labourers, the consequences, whilst they affect a great moral and national principle, must, as regards these colonies, be deplorable, as no class of persons will, in any country, voluntarily and continuously pursue a laborious and unremunerative occupation.

I have, &c.,

KER B. HAMILTON, Lieut.-Governor.

Sub-Encl. in No. 10.

Sub-Enclosure in No. 10.

Government House, Grenada,
September 24, 1847.

GENTLEMEN,

THE subject of emigration from Madeira having necessarily engaged the attention of Government, and the statistics furnished by different colonies showing a rate of mortality which necessitates the adoption of rules for regulating this emigration, I am desirous of ascertaining the opinion of the medical officers of this colony respecting the months during which such emigration should be permitted. I submit for your consideration a despatch from Earl Grey to Governor Reid, dated 1st of May last, with a report from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners to Mr. Secretary Stephen, dated 23rd of April; also abstract of information respecting Portuguese immigrants introduced into this colony from Madeira, from June 1846 to June 1847, and copy of a letter to Mr. Special Justice Romney, dated 1st of September, with information thereon furnished by the medical gentlemen attending the Portuguese in this colony:

It occurs to me that no bounty should be allowed in respect of emigrants leaving Madeira between April and September, inclusively; but I should wish to receive your opinion in respect of the months during which it is desirable that such emigration should be discouraged.

I also request your attention to the facts and statements contained in the documents herewith submitted for your consideration, and invite such observations as your experience may suggest on this subject.

J. Connell, Esq., P.M.O.,
The Hon. W. Stephenson,
H. S. Sanders, 3rd W. I. Regt.,
John Browne, Esq.

I am, &c.,
(Signed)

KER B. HAMILTON,
Lieut.-Governor.

Medical Office, Grenada,
September 29, 1847.

SIR,

WE have the honour to acknowledge your letter of the 24th instant, requesting our opinions as to what months emigration from Madeira to this island should be permitted; and calling our attention to the documents therewith transmitted for consideration, with a view to our furnishing such observations as our experience in the matter might suggest.

Having carefully considered the subject, and also the statements contained in the documents alluded to; it appears to us that, according to the best official authority extant—"Statistical Report, &c. for the West Indies; prepared from the Records of the Army Medical Department, and War Office Returns, 1838,"—as regards Grenada, "the influence of the seasons in producing sickness and mortality, is by no means very strikingly marked. either in the admissions" (into hospital) "or deaths, except in the month of September; that sickness has principally prevailed from April to September, and the greatest mortality from August to November."

This is the record of British troops taken as an average of 20 years, and seems to us to be the only authentic source from which to draw inferences in this matter; because the immigrants from Madeira have been of too short standing in the island, and too few in number, to enable us to draw any useful conclusions, grounded upon statistics connected with them in Grenada.

As it is not clear to us there are any records to show that one part of the year is essentially more unhealthy than another (for malignant endemics have raged here, as well in those months which are generally termed healthy, as in the others), we concur in the view taken by Mr. Aquart in his report of the 5th instant to your Excellency, viz. that, "from the beginning of December to the end of March, the ground provisions are of better quality; there is not that great abundance of fruit upon which the Portuguese indulge immoderately, and the weather is drier, cooler, and more settled;" and these considerations we believe of importance in the selection of the months most proper for immigration.

We also concur in the report of Mr. Keith to your Excellency, dated the 17th instant, where it is stated, that "July, August, September, and October are more sultry and rainy than the other months," and these months should not therefore be selected for arrivals from Madeira.

These being facts ascertained, carry, in our opinion, more weight towards throwing light as respects the best months for immigration into Grenada, than the supposed in-

fluence of particular months on sickness and mortality; and we would therefore submit, that all things considered, from the *middle of November* to the *middle of March* would be preferable, on experiment, for the arrival of the Madeira emigrants at this island.

From actual experience, as connected with the individuals under consideration, we can offer no observations; but we submit the following for your Excellency's consideration, drawn from the facts and statements contained in the documents accompanying your Excellency's letter to us on the subject.

It does not clearly appear whether the whole of the arrivals in Grenada from June, 1846, to June, 1847, is contained in the Table compiled by Mr. Romney; but in the absence of such information, and taking that Table as a guide so far as it goes, the following seem the main points deducible therefrom.

That, in certain parishes therein named, the arrivals					
between the 1st of June, 1846, and the 31st of					
May, 1847, were	.	.	.	.	195
Of these died	.	.	.	.	40
Remaining the 31st May					155

This would give a mortality, supposing the entire number to have been one year in the island, of nearly 20 per cent. per annum; but as they were not all for a year in Grenada, the calculation of mortality would exceed 20.

But either would be a very incorrect calculation, where the question is not how many immigrants died in the year in Grenada? but how many died in consequence of immigration into Grenada? For looking into the several reports furnished by the medical gentlemen to your Excellency, it is evident a great proportion of those deaths occurred in consequence of disease brought here from Madeira.

The report of Mr. Romney from St. Patrick's shows, that of ten who died there, six landed diseased; and the fact that these six died "very shortly" after they arrived, tends, in our opinion, to exonerate the climate of Grenada from the onus of death in these particular cases; and, in fact, the ten deaths enumerated should, as regards the real question, be called four.

In the report of Mr. Richard from St. Patrick's, it is stated, that "many of the deaths arose from disease brought along with them." Whether Mr. Richard alludes to the foregoing ten deaths or to others, there is nothing in his report to show; but it is nevertheless clear, that to whatever deaths he alludes they cannot all be attributed to the climate of Grenada.

In Mr. Aguart's report from St. John's, it appears that in 42 arrivals, the first set of 25 came in July; and he says, "several landed sickly, particularly two infants," which two infants died; and these deaths cannot be laid to the account of Grenada. Nor does there appear anything in Mr. Aguart's report to show, that amongst the 42 any further deaths took place.

Mr. Keith from St. Andrews informs us, that "many deaths arose from disease under which they laboured on arrival;" and that "some were located in unhealthy situations."

These people landed in June, 1846, 165 in number; and there was a death from dropsy, which disease the individual laboured under on arrival. There were two deaths from parturition; and these three cannot be considered as caused by this climate.

Of the total deaths, 19 occurred in children, "most of them diseased on arrival;" six of them from hooping-cough, which they brought to Grenada with them, and which is a disease little seen in Grenada. The majority, if not the whole of these 19 deaths, should be thrown out of the calculation of mortality caused by immigration into Grenada.

If data existed to show with accuracy what deaths occurred from disease brought into this island, and from accidents after arrival, on the one hand; and what took place from disease originating in healthy subjects after they landed, on the other; we are of opinion the mortality amongst the Portuguese immigrants from Madeira, in consequence of removal to Grenada, would assume a materially diminished aspect to what it does, counting the mortality as a whole; and without the distinction, *which alone* can give the deaths, *bonâ fide, caused by immigration*, either to Grenada or any other colony.

It occurs to us to add, that the immigrants in question landed, for the most part, at the commencement of what is considered the sickly season, and that they came in a *particularly unhealthy year*; the latter adding not a little to the disadvantage of the last year's arrivals. And, finally, we beg to state, that, taking a review of all things connected with this subject, it is our conviction, that if those people were brought into this island *in good health*, and then well lodged, moderately and regularly fed, had a sufficient change of clothing to meet the exigencies of wet weather, with prompt and efficient medical attendance when sick, they would thrive fully as well in the island of Grenada as in that of Madeira; and we would submit for your Excellency's consideration, whether it would not be productive of much good in many ways, were the bounty in future paid for such immigrants only as passed a careful health inspection on landing in this island.

We have, &c.,

(Signed) JAMES CONNELL, Staff Surgeon,
(Second Class,) P. M. O.

WILLIAM STEPHENSON, Surgeon.

HENRY SHEARLY SANDERS, Assistant-Surgeon,
3rd W. I. Regiment.

ABSTRACT showing the QUANTITY of SUGAR manufactured in the several Parishes in GRENADA, in the Years 1828, 1829, 1830, 1835, and from the Year 1838 to the Year 1847.

PARISHES.	1825	1829	1830	1835	1838	1839	1840	1841	1842	1843	1844	1845	1846	1847
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
St. George	4,877,357	3,736,059	3,873,386	3,057,066	2,648,608	1,531,485	1,274,136	1,094,741	1,364,486	1,035,601	1,135,010	882,950	855,135	1,759,230
St. John	2,392,864	1,957,974	2,042,272	1,250,102	1,215,192	688,711	631,652	545,588	779,064	540,680	632,804	522,980	727,280	823,200
St. Mark	1,805,772	1,605,996	1,486,042	1,296,348	733,587	438,768	498,810	652,066	709,900	565,844	464,543	320,540	742,056	752,508
St. Patrick	8,445,531	7,665,675	6,376,369	6,192,276	5,712,712	4,037,344	3,323,496	3,210,104	3,548,754	3,367,623	2,695,469	2,703,400	3,625,003	4,133,040
St. Andrew	9,331,462	7,884,113	7,277,830	4,348,349	4,956,352	4,453,814	3,442,046	2,922,977	3,077,617	3,319,953	2,917,680	2,518,349	2,596,051	3,089,932
St. David	2,747,401	2,104,508	2,016,795	2,169,005	2,053,658	1,387,391	804,780	855,824	737,251	1,059,352	1,178,907	928,842	738,237	1,257,822
Carriacou	2,009,200	1,376,325	1,850,620	2,154,554	1,343,140	894,511	709,766	623,131	169,700	258,520	538,432	570,760	179,110	971,120
Total	31,609,587	26,330,050	24,923,314	20,467,700	18,663,249	13,432,024	10,684,686	9,904,431	10,386,172	10,147,573	9,562,845	8,447,831	9,462,872	12,786,852

A true Abstract taken from the Returns remaining in the Office of the Public Treasurer of Grenada, examined therewith by OUSLEY ROWLEY,
Colonial Secretary.

ACCOUNT of the NUMBER and TONNAGE of VESSELS which entered Inwards and Cleared Outwards, at the Port of St. George, Grenada, during the Year ended 5th January, 1848, distinguishing the Countries to which they belonged, and the Number and Tonnage of Vessels importing Coals for the use of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

Countries to which the Vessels belonged.	Inwards.		Outwards.	
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
BRITISH VESSELS. Ships importing Coals for the use of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's service.	26	6,954	..	..
BRITISH VESSELS. From and to the United Kingdom and British Possessions, Foreign States, and their Possessions.	325	12,718	388	21,097
FOREIGN VESSELS, viz.,				
Spain	1	115	1	115
Sweden	5	90	5	90
United States	19	8,137	19	3,092
Columbia.	30	1,351	30	1,341
Total	406	24,365	443	25,735

The Number and Tonnage of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's Steamers and Schooners is not included in this account, although they occasionally import and export portions of Cargo.
Custom-house, Grenada, 17th March, 1848.

THOMAS HOLMES, Collector.

STATE OF HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

75

ACCOUNT of the estimated VALUE of IMPORTS and EXPORTS for the three Years ending 5th January, 1848.

Years.	Estimated Value of Imports.				Total.	Estimated Value of Exports.				Total.
	In British Vessels.		In Foreign Vessels.			In British Vessels.		In Foreign Vessels.		
	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.
1845	133,445	1 6	21,563	11 10	155,008	13 4	121,040	14 8	401	5 10
1846	116,752	14 9	24,940	4 4	141,692	19 1	130,535	16 8	1,539	9 0
1847	117,279	16 11	24,780	1 9	142,059	18 8	198,261	17 4	1,448	1 4
	367,477	13 2	71,283	17 11	438,761	11 1	449,838	8 8	3,388	16 2
									453,227	4 10

The value of goods imported and exported in the Royal Mail Steamers is not included in this Return.

THOMAS HOLMES, Collector.

Custom-house, Grenada, 17th March, 1848.

ABSTRACT of REVENUE, GRENADA, 1847.

	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.
Balance in hand, 1st January			4,001	4 0
Licences to retail spirit	580	0 0		
Licences to Hucksters	110	10 0		
Licences to Auctioneers	100	0 0		
Licences for boats and canoes	61	12 8		
Market fees	158	13 1		
Rent of Fish House, St. George's	23	2 0		
Fees collected by magistrates	189	11 10		
Fines imposed by the Supreme Court of Judicature	22	0 0		
Fines imposed by Magistrates	226	18 8		
Public taxes on horses and houses	1,498	17 6		
Water tax and dues	216	5 8		
Soldiers' subsistence money, under the Mutiny Acts	47	10 0		
Nine-tenths of duties from Her Majesty's Customs	1,784	2 6		
Import duties	5,247	6 7		
Export duties	2,707	12 3		
Duty on rum consumed	2,901	15 9		
From West India Bank, on account of immigration money deposited	2,994	6 1		
			18,870	4 7
Total revenue			22,871	8 7

Treasurer's Office, 3rd April, 1848.

(Signed)

MATTHEW DAVIES,
Public Treasurer.

ABSTRACT of EXPENDITURE, GRENADA, 1847.

	£.	s. d.
Clergy, clerks, and organist	2,298	16 0
Public officers	4,621	3 10
Police	2,932	12 11
Annuity	112	0 0
Pension to late Chief Justice	250	0 0
Public printing	126	13 4
Maintenance of prisoners in gaols and cages	249	14 7
Repairs of the Grand Etang and Noel's Hill Roads	248	2 0
Repairs of the Belvidere-road, across to the Grand Etang	127	10 0
Repairs of public roads throughout the colony	2,145	9 2
Interment of paupers	67	7 6
Executing Coroner's Warrants in parishes	13	15 0
Arrears, per money bill of 1846	41	0 0
Debts established against the public, for 1846	263	13 1
Repairs of the water-works	34	9 8
Stationery for the magistrates	15	14 10
Cleaning the burial grounds	15	0 0
Votes in aid of schools	217	10 0
Votes, per money bill	278	13 0
Votes and Warrant of Lieut.-Governor	1,527	18 11
Drawback duties	56	7 9
Commission to Officers of Customs	36	10 5
Apprehension of a prisoner	13	10 10
Deposit in West India Bank	1,443	14 9
Bounty on immigrants	1,186	0 0
Total Expenditure	18,323	7 7

Treasurer's Office, 3rd April, 1848.

(Signed)

MATTHEW DAVIES,
Public Treasurer.

TOBAGO.

No. 11.

TOBAGO.

(No. 17.)

No. 11.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor REID to Earl GREY.

Barbados, May 12, 1848.
(Received June 21, 1848.)

MY LORD,

Blue Book, 1847.
24th April, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the Blue Book for Tobago; for the year 1847, accompanied by the Lieutenant-Governor's annual Report.

The interests of all classes in Tobago, in my opinion, are suffering from a want of sufficient provision being made for carrying on the public service of the island.

In this Report the Lieutenant-Governor suggests that municipal powers should be given to the inhabitants of Scarborough and its suburbs. Although that town is very small, I am inclined to think that there would be advantage in conferring some limited power of this kind to the inhabitants of the town.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) WM. REID, Governor.

Encl. in No. 11.

Enclosure in No. 11.

Government House, Tobago,
April 24, 1848.

SIR,

IN transmitting to your Excellency the Blue Book in duplicate for the year 1847, I beg to observe, that the completion of the returns has been considerably retarded in consequence of my having had to make an application to the Colonial Office for a further supply of blank sheets, those previously received having been rendered unserviceable from the effects of the hurricane last autumn, which damaged all the papers in my office.

Taxes.

Having fully explained in former reports the manner in which the revenue in Tobago is raised, I shall merely remark, under the head of taxation, that the import, tonnage, and lighthouse dues yielded this year the sum of 3612*l.* 14*s.* These being our only fixed taxes, we had a large deficiency to provide for under a "Bill of Supply;" first, by the imposition of rates and assessments on incomes, houses, horses, mules, asses, guns, boats, wholesale merchants, and shopkeepers; these rates being generally the same in each annual "Levy Bill; and secondly, by a tax upon the staple produce of the colony, so regulated as to make up the estimated difference between the total expenditure and the amount derived from all other sources of taxation. The rate of this export tax upon produce consequently varies each year, and is usually fixed at from 7*s.* to 15*s.* per hogshead of sugar, and proportionally upon rum and molasses.

From this mode of collecting the revenue it will be readily seen, that the gross income of the island can never be received as a correct indication of either the agricultural or commercial progress of the colony, to ascertain either of which it is only requisite, in the one case, to compare the quantity of produce annually shipped, and in the other, the amount of duties collected under the 5 per cent. *ad valorem* import tax; thus, in the year 1846, the island exported only 2880 hogsheads of sugar, whilst, in the year 1847, there were shipped 4567, being an increase of 1687 hogsheads. The colonial import duties of 1846 amounted to 3154*l.*, and in 1847 they only yielded 2903*l.*, showing a decrease of 251*l.*; but the tonnage dues of 1847 giving an increase of 158*l.*, leaves a deficiency of revenue under these heads collectively of only 93*l.*

I am aware there are many objections to be urged in political economy against indirect taxation, but in Tobago it is not an unpopular method of raising the revenue; on the contrary, it gives far less dissatisfaction than that caused by levies under the annual Supply Bill, which give rise to numerous complaints and grievances. I should be glad to see the whole of these assessments (some of which are oppressive) abolished, and the revenue raised alto-

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gether by well-regulated import and export duties, an excise on spirits (manufactured and sold in the island), and a moderate land-tax; this last so framed as to include small proprietors of ground who have withdrawn from regular occupation as daily labourers.

In making a comparative yearly statement, it is necessary to pass over 1846, in which year no supplies were granted, and its contingent expenses became mixed up with the money votes of 1847. I shall, therefore, refer back to the year 1845, the income of which amounted to 8495*l.*, and the expenditure to 8528*l.*, pretty nearly balancing each other. The expenditure of 1847 was 9855*l.*, but it was necessary to raise only 7873*l.*, there being in the island chest a sum equal to the difference arising out of the unappropriated monies collected in 1846.

Income and Expenditure.

It may naturally be surmised, from this statement, that our finances are in a prosperous condition; but this is not so, as the contingent expenses of 1847 and the salaries of 1848 are not yet provided for; and as nearly the whole of the permanent revenue is already appropriated by law, we may expect to find at the close of the year 1848 an empty exchequer to meet the various demands of the public creditors. Unless, therefore, a "Levy Bill" be passed in the course of the present session, so as gradually to lighten the public debt, the effects of this dilatory legislation will be felt severely, by all classes of the community, whenever it becomes imperative to pay off arrears by the imposition of heavy assessments upon incomes, and the other unpopular and vexatious sources of taxation enumerated in the "Bill of Supply."

The only public works in progress comprise the rebuilding of the barracks and the repairs of Government House, the Court House, and Gaol, all of which received considerable damage by the hurricane. The tank in course of building in the Market Square of Scarborough advances but slowly, and the town's people complain much of the annual assessments on their property for its construction. A Bill for the repeal of the "Act" under which these assessments are made was introduced into and passed by the House of Assembly, but was rejected by the Legislative Council.

Public Works.

I think it would be an improvement were matters of this kind, and all other municipal reforms in the larger towns, left to the householders themselves, without being subject to the interference of the legislative bodies; for which reason I would give to the town of Scarborough and suburbs an Act of Incorporation, authorising the inhabitants to elect periodically local administrative authorities, possessing the usual powers of framing police regulations for the suppression of vagrancy and disorderly conduct within the precincts of the borough; for the removal of nuisances; the supply of water; clearing the streets and thoroughfares when encroached upon or closed up, and for promoting such sanitary regulations as would tend to increase the healthiness of the town and general comforts of the inhabitants, all of which could readily be effected without the more tedious process of legislative enactments.

An "Act" has recently been passed by the local Legislature (not yet assented to by the Crown) for the summary punishment by two justices of the peace of petty thefts under the value of 4*l.* Besides imprisonment, not exceeding six months, with or without hard labour, the magistrates are empowered in certain cases to award restitution to the amount of the value of the articles stolen, with costs. In this respect the law is peculiarly adapted to suit the feelings of our peasantry, who are seldom satisfied with the conviction and punishment of the offender, unless they obtain the more substantial redress of getting back the value of their goods, when restitution cannot be made of the property itself; and as this could not be done under the old law, they were often disposed to resort to illegal measures for effecting that object. I wish a somewhat similar enactment were passed to afford compensation to the injured party in cases of assault. His honour the Chief Justice, when commenting lately on this petty theft "Act," in an excellent address to the grand jury, whilst fully admitting the utility of the measure, dwelt with much stress on its infringement of the Great Charter; and forcibly reminded the magistracy of the necessity of a cautious and faithful exercise of the power now vested in them, by the substitution of summary jurisdiction for trial by jury.

Legislative

Some little sensation was created a few months ago by an attempt being made upon several estates to reduce the daily rate of wages. The experiment was, however, relinquished on account of the opposition it met with.

Wages.

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The planters, I think, err by endeavouring to establish a uniform rate of wages throughout the island, which is impossible to effect in a country where so much depends upon locality, the density of the immediate population, and the nature and character of the soil. Two hours' additional daily labour, or an increase to the usual daily task (which the peasant can well afford to give), would as effectually meet the views of the planter, and at the same time avoid producing a feeling of dissatisfaction and irritation, to which every one is liable, upon a reduction of income derived from personal exertion.

An opinion very generally prevailed after emancipation that, in order to secure the continuous services of the field negro, it was expedient to foster a taste for articles of luxury, and, unfortunately, encouragement was given to the wearing of fine apparel rather than to acquiring the more profitable comforts and conveniences of civilized life. The peasantry of the West Indies, unlike those of Europe, have no distinctive dress as a class; and upon Sundays and feast-days the employer and labourer are habited much alike. This is carried not unfrequently to an extravagant length; and until the labourer can be satisfied to adopt a cheaper holiday costume, and one more suited to his station and pursuits, I see little chance of the planter establishing a decreased rate of wages.

A scientific attention in the mixing of composts, and a judicious manuring of the soil, followed up by a proper system of green crop dressings, and a more condensed cultivation in this island, would do much to effect a decrease in the expenses of an estate, and secure an improved quality of cane, the yielding from which would amply repay the trouble.

Commitments.

In the following return, the commitments in the year 1847 present a favourable contrast with those of the previous year; but I cannot disguise from myself that crime in Tobago is of serious magnitude as compared with the commission of offences in the neighbouring colonies, and I think it my duty to draw the attention of your Excellency to this subject.

RETURN OF COMMITMENTS in the Years 1846 and 1847.

Offences.	1846			1847			Decrease.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Felonies	28	3	31	21	3	24	7
Thefts	54	12	66	14	7	21	45
Misdemeanours . . .	170	23	193	92	11	103	90
Debt	27	3	30	3	4	7	23
	279	41	320	130	25	155	165

I am very much disposed to believe that our inability to carry into effect sentences of transportation, and the inadequacy of any substitute for that punishment, to a great extent does away with the terrors of the criminal court, and deprives us of the wholesome influence of example. Separation from his home and associates has a powerful effect upon the mind of the negro, and no enactment would more effectually tend to check the commission of crime, or be received as a greater boon by the smaller West India colonies, than the introduction of a Government measure to enable us to transport our felons to Bermuda, and relieve the gaols of our notorious criminals. An "Act" is about to be introduced by the Chief Justice to assign convicts to sugar plantations during their term of sentence, as practised in the Australian Penal settlements; but, with every wish for the success of this or any other measure for the prevention of heavy offences, I fear that nothing short of actual banishment, in the incomplete state of our prison discipline, will have the desired effect.

Immigration.

In order to supply the deficiency of labour, a colonial bounty of 3*l.* sterling was given for every immigrant entering into a contract of service for 12 months, and 600 were obtained under this regulation from Barbados. This speculation was, in my opinion, eminently successful, not so much on account of the gain in numbers as from the moral effect it appeared to have upon our native peasantry, who viewed with no little apprehension the arrival of so many competitors in the labour market; and many who had capriciously withdrawn their services, or from indolence had neglected steady and continuous labour, returned to their former engagements.

Immigration, as an appliance to effect a reduction in the price of labour, must, to ensure success, be introduced simultaneously and to a large extent. The expense of accomplishing this from Africa, at the cost of the colony, would more than counterbalance the benefit expected from it; for besides the charges of transit, it would be necessary (if it be determined to act upon a large scale) that provision should also be made for the religious and moral improvement of the immigrant. The clergy have already sufficient occupation, and our scholastic institutions are barely adequate to afford instruction to the rising generation. Under these circumstances, the planters ought at present to limit their application for assistance to the occasional introduction of liberated Africans, which would suffice, as already seen, to stimulate the Creole peasant to exertion, and remind them that other means are at command, to which the planter can resort, to counteract their unsteady habits.

Education has been considerably retarded, in consequence of the injury sustained by the schools in October last: some were entirely blown down, and others so much damaged as to require thorough repair. Great exertions have been made by the clergy to reconstruct them. The Wesleyans have already rebuilt a chapel and schoolhouse; the Moravian Mission has received a handsome donation from the parent society for the same purpose; and his Lordship the bishop of the diocese has at his disposal a considerable sum, which, with a grant of 300*l.* from the local legislature, will go far to replace the churches and schools of the episcopal establishment. Education.

The free-school in the town of Scarborough is about to be remodelled; and I hope to have established, in addition to the objects for which it was originally instituted, a classical seminary for the more liberal education of the upper classes of society, who at present cannot obtain this advantage without the expense and inconvenience of a voyage to England or Barbados. I am willing to attribute the backwardness of some of our primary schools of instruction as compared with others to the effects of the late storm, which was felt more severely in some districts than in others; but henceforth I shall notice the progress of educational improvement from the year 1848; and as public attention in Tobago has been directed with some success to this subject, I have reason to anticipate the most favourable results.

It will be seen from the return herewith annexed, that 57,408 acres of land (comprising nearly the whole island) were sold by Commissioners appointed by the Crown in the year 1765 for the sum of 154,058*l.* 19*s.*, in allotments varying from 50 to 500 acres. The principal conditions of sale were, that no person should purchase for himself more than 500 acres, 20 per cent. of the whole purchase money to be paid down, and 6*d.* per acre to cover the expense of surveying; that within 12 months from the date of grant the purchaser should be bound to clear, at the rate of 5 acres in the 100, until one-half of the land should be cleared, under a penalty of 5*l.* sterling per annum: the purchaser was also required to pay an annual quit-rent of 6*d.* per cleared acre. Grants of Land.

Not more than 6000 or 7000 acres of land have been cleared, but in no instance, I believe, has the Crown enforced the penalty. The names of the original purchasers, and the number of acres sold to each, are on record, and the whole of the money was paid over to the Commissioners; but whether the amount realized was expended upon the colony, or carried to the general credit of the mother country, does not appear.

Three chains round the coast were reserved for forts, and besides a few suburban allotments there now only remain to be disposed of some hundreds of acres on the summit of the main ridge, which, being almost inaccessible, are of little value. I forward this information because colonization has recently engaged much public attention, and as the sale of land by Government in this island seems to have been successful and conducted upon sound principles.

The injured sugar works have been so far put into repair as to ensure the saving of the present crop, and most of the labourers' dwellings have been repaired or reconstructed on a reduced scale; and although the yielding of the cane is not so abundant as at one time might have been expected, the country, generally, is recovering from the scathing effect of the wind, which, destroying the verdure of the island, and stripping bare the leaves from the forest trees, gave to the woods a wintry aspect most unnatural in these latitudes. Condition of Agriculture.

The anxiety of the peasantry to possess independent holdings continues

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unabated; and as facility is given them in all parts of the island either to purchase or rent land, I see every prospect of Tobago possessing, at no distant day, a thriving middle class of farmers.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) L. GRÆME, Lieut.-Governor.

RETURN of LAND sold by the COMMISSIONERS for the CROWN between the Years 1765 and 1771.

	Years.	Acres.	—			Average.		
			£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
	1765	4,000	4,030	0	0	1	0	1½
	1766	11,096	11,226	0	0	1	0	2
	1767	14,975	21,853	15	0	1	9	2
	1768	4,632	7,125	18	0	1	10	4
	1769	5,183	16,457	6	0	2	15	0
	1770	9,362	55,045	0	0	5	17	7
	1771	8,160	38,321	0	0	4	13	11
		57,408	154,058	19	0	2	13	8

5th May, 1848. (Certified) JOHN THORNTON, Colonial Secretary.

ST. VINCENT.

ST. VINCENT.

No. 12.

No. 12.

COPY of a DESPATCH from EARL GREY to Governor REID.

Windward Islands, Barbados,
July 25, 1848.
(Received August 24, 1848.)

MY LORD,

Blue Book for 1847.
Annual Report.
Lieut.-Governor to Governor, July 15, 1848, with one Enclosure.

HAVING only received the Blue Book and Annual Report from St. Vincent this day, I transmit it at once to your Lordship. It has, I regret to say, been delayed owing to the sickness of the Lieutenant-Governor.

I have, &c.,
WILLIAM REID, Governor.
The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 12.

Enclosure in No. 12.

St. Vincent, Government House,
July 15, 1848.

SIR,

Blue Book, two copies.
Colonial Secretary, March 22, 1848.
Annual Report.

I HAVE the honour herewith to transmit the Blue Book for 1847, in duplicate, together with a letter in reference to it from the Colonial Secretary, and my "Annual Report."

2. Your Excellency will observe from the date of the Colonial Secretary's letter that the extreme delay which has taken place in the despatch of these documents is in no way to be attributed to him.

3. It has been caused by my having been seized by severe indisposition shortly after the Blue Book was placed in my hands, which incapacitated me from drawing up my "Report" upon it for a period of two months.

4. The Colonial Secretary is doubtful whether he is required to furnish for transmission more than two copies of the Blue Book.

5. By the "Instructions" on the first page, he is directed to supply five copies in all, and the doubt is whether by the word "Governor" is not meant Lieut.-Governor.

6. The Secretary does not object to furnish another or sixth copy, and will

do so if your Excellency requires, but wishes to represent that by page 60, section 5 of the Colonial Regulations, only five copies are required.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN CAMPBELL, Lieut.-Governor.
His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, Barbados,
&c. &c. &c.

Colonial Secretary's Office, St. Vincent,
March 22, 1848.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for this colony for the year 1847, and trust that it will, in every respect, meet with the approbation of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State, his Excellency the Governor-General, and yourself.

I have taken every means in my power to procure the returns required for this service, and have been at great personal pains in forwarding blank forms to all such of the officers as are called on to make returns for the first time.

I have, as far as I have been able, obtained and inserted the revenue and expenditure of all the towns in this island except Layon. I have copied the return of the town wardens of Layon.

I observed in the Blue Book for Barbados for the year 1846, with a perusal of which I was kindly favoured by his Excellency the Governor-General on his last visit here, that the comparative yearly statement of the revenue into the three heads of "Fixed," "Incidental," and "Receipts in aid of Revenue;" I have preferred the system heretofore adopted in this island of giving each item under a separate head, which I trust will meet approval.

I have, under the head "Legislation" given shortly, and to the best of my judgment, the substance of each Act taken from the marginal notes, and where those are not sufficiently full by further note.

The Council, Assembly, and Civil Establishment are made up as usual.

The Pension List, with the exception of 25*l.* 10*s.*, is a remnant of the system of slavery, as may be there seen.

The return of Population is taken from the Census of 1844.

There are no means by which I can ascertain the actual number of square miles in each parish, but I have given the estimated number of acres in cultivation.

I have applied to the heads of all the schools and the clergymen of each parish for the returns of schools, and have given in the returns, as sent in, in answer to my applications.

I have taken from the "Gazette" of the island, which is considered the best authority, the course of exchange in every month; the coins are also given.

I regret my inability to furnish a return of the amount of coin in circulation, and have given my reasons.

I also regret that I have been unable to arrive at the amount of paper currency in circulation; I have applied to the managers of the two banks in this colony, and have inserted the answer of Mr. Wight at page 161. I have received no answer from the manager of the West India Bank.

The imports and exports are taken from the returns sent into me by the Customs.

It will be observed that the amount of produce manufactured in the year 1846-47 has exceeded the amount made in any other year since the abolition of slavery.

There are no manufactures save sugar and arrowroot.

The grant of land to Mr. Drape bears date as far back as 2nd March, 1841, and is the grant of a piece of land escheated, and put up to public sale on the 2nd February in the same year, when Mr. Drape became the purchaser.

The report of gaols and prisons is from the return sent in by the provost marshal.

There may be some imperfections in the Blue Book as now forwarded, but these, I trust, will be ascribed to any source but that of negligence, as your Excellency well knows the difficulty of this service in obtaining returns, and especially correct ones, from the numerous parties here. The originals of

several of the returns inserted in this book were not sent to my office until the present month of March, and many were sent in the latter end of February.

I may, I am convinced, with confidence add that the Blue Book now forwarded, on a careful comparison with those of former years from this and the neighbouring islands, will be found to be, at least, in no particular inferior to any.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

GEO. W. D. BERESFORD,
Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency Sir John Campbell, Bart.,
Lieut.-Governor,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copies.)

(Signed)

E. ROW. FORMAN,
Lieut. 88th Regt., and P. Sec.

ANNUAL REPORT accompanying BLUE BOOK of 1847.

THE year 1847 was, upon the whole, marked by internal circumstances more favourable to this colony than those of the years which, for a considerable period, had preceded.

A large increase of the crop is observable over that of 1846, and, indeed, the amount of produce exceeded what has been obtained, in any one season, since the period of emancipation. Although, I believe that peculiarly genial weather exercised a very great influence in causing this happy result, it is not to be overlooked that much of it is to be attributed to the praiseworthy exertions of the planters, and also to an improvement in the habits of the labouring population.

During the previous year, and also in the course of 1847, immigrants to the number of about 2000 were introduced from the island of Madeira. This importation was effected by an Act granting a bounty from surplus funds in the Treasury, and, subsequently, continued under an Act of the Legislature by which a revenue has been raised, chiefly, by means of a tax of 6*d.* per gallon upon rum consumed in the colony, and appropriated to defray a portion of its expense; the remaining portion, about one-half, having been paid by the parties who hired the immigrants.

So considerable an addition to the agricultural labourers produced a sensible effect upon the cultivation, but, in addition to the direct influence, it is generally believed that a stimulus was thereby given to the native population, which induced habits of somewhat more steady industry than they formerly evinced.

Attention had been directed to improvements, both in the culture and manufacture of the sugar-cane, which, stimulated by the operation of an agricultural society, resulted in many judicious and successful experiments. Among these may be mentioned the more luxuriant growth of the cane from the prior introduction of guano, and from the continued application of artificial manure; the former substance has been largely applied with satisfactory effect. In the manufacture of the sugar, the processes derived from scientific investigation had in some measure begun to be applied, and the rude and imperfect method which prevailed, almost without variation, since the establishment of the colony, had somewhat yielded to increasing knowledge and the spirit of enterprise. On one or two estates vacuum pans had already been erected, and on another a most complete and admirable machinery has this year been put into operation, consisting of filterers, vacuum pan, &c., by the agency of which sugar of a superior quality is produced.

IMPORTS and EXPORTS.

All these causes have combined to swell the produce of 1847, and by reference to the Blue Book a corresponding increase will be seen in the value both of imports and exports.

In 1847	.	.	Imports	.	.	.	£185,807
In 1846	.	.	„	.	.	.	170,958
Excess in favour of 1847.							£ 14,849

Under the head of Exports a still more favourable statement is exhibited.

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In 1847 . . . Exports	£295,201
In 1846 . . . , ,	246,095

Excess in favour of 1847.	£ 49,106
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It thus appears that the exports have had an increase somewhat more than double in proportion to that of the imports, as an equal ratio would produce only 23,591 $\frac{1}{2}$. The exports have at all times found their way, almost exclusively, to Great Britain; but it is worthy of observation that, in the present case, while there is a large encrease upon the total of imports, there has been a considerable falling off in those from all foreign states. Thus, in a comparatively prosperous year, this colony has, viewing its limited means, afforded an extended market for British goods, as well as employment for British shipping, which may be looked upon as of some value.

Shipping Inwards.

It is also to be remarked that while the total amount of tonnage in 1846 was	27,041 tons.
it was, in 1847, only	24,064 , ,

Showing an excess in favour of 1846 of 2,977 , ,	
yet the tonnage of British ships having been, in 1847	9,402 tons.
and in 1846	8,661 , ,

Shows an excess in favour of 1847 of	741 , ,
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Revenue and Expenditure.

The expenditure exceeded the amount of revenue actually collected within the year by a sum of 1589 $\frac{1}{2}$. In explanation of this, it is to be remarked that the Repeal of the Customs Duties, which took effect on the 2nd day of October, depriving the Treasury of three months' revenue from that source. It has been proposed to remedy the deficiency thereby occasioned by the imposition of additional import duties. The decrease in the imports from the American United States and from British America also exercised an unfavourable influence upon the revenue, because the articles, such as lumber, shingles, &c., which usually form the imports from these countries, are subject to higher duties than goods from Britain, on the greater number of which low *ad valorem* duties are imposed. The tax upon produce is fixed annually, and thus the revenue did not benefit in a degree commensurate with the increased production, the lower prices to which the articles had fallen having caused the Legislature to declare a lower rate of value, and also a lower rate of *ad valorem* taxation. From this arose, that notwithstanding the greatly superior crops, the proceeds of the tax on produce exceeded that of 1846 by only 339 $\frac{1}{2}$ 9s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. It is worthy of remark that, comparatively, a large increase took place in the revenue from the sources which may be regarded as indicating the prosperity and advancement of the native population; for instance, freeholds and leaseholds produced in 1847 . . . £ 575 1 5

1846	276 4 5
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Excess in favour, 1847	£ 298 17 0
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Although the expenditure of 1847 went somewhat beyond the revenue, it was less than that of 1846, setting aside the payment for immigration in both years, which may be regarded as casual and extraneous.

The Expenditure

	£.	s.	d.
of 1846 amounted to	21,942	13	4
of 1847 amounted to	20,224	2	10

Decrease in favour of 1847	£ 1,718 10 6
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This reduction was effected without in any degree interfering with or impairing those institutions which are of the most vital importance to the welfare of

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the community ; on the contrary, to the important object of education an additional sum of 354*l.* 17*s.* was allowed.

The saving was effected solely by a stricter economy and supervision on the part of the Committee of Council and Assembly on public accounts, from which has resulted a reduction, under the heads of "Public Orders and Casualties," amounting to no less than 1819*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*

Local Revenues.

This, I believe, is the first time that a detailed account has been given in the Blue Book, of the revenues and expenditures of the different towns in the colony. It is not so complete as may be wished, but seems to show that no excessive burthens are imposed upon the inhabitants, and that the funds levied are expended for their benefit and comfort. A commodious building, intended for a market-house, referred to in Blue Book, page 62, is in a state of advancement in Kingstown, being roofed in, but its further progress has, in the mean time, been arrested from want of funds. When it comes into use an increase to the revenue of the town is to be expected. This is highly desirable, as hitherto the town funds have been hardly more than sufficient to defray the expense incurred in maintaining ordinary cleanliness, and do not permit any improvements, of which many are required. The erection of a wharf is an improvement so obvious as to occasion surprise that it has not long ago been carried into effect. There are great natural facilities for such an undertaking; it would prove highly advantageous to the community at large, and might be justly expected to realize a considerable income for the benefit of the town. The subject has been urged upon the consideration of the Legislature, but, hitherto, no steps have been taken on its behalf.

Military Expenditure.

By an Act passed on the 28th July, 1845, a corps of militia is established, to consist of 55 officers and 500 privates, including cavalry and artillery, the infantry to be armed and clothed as riflemen, and called a rifle corps. This Act was passed previous to my arrival, and, shortly subsequent, a ballot took place, and musters were held at the five different stations appointed by the Act. At these I was present, and found them better attended than I expected. Immediately thereafter it was discovered that the Act was imperfect, and that among other defects it contained no power to compel the men to attend. It was therefore submitted to the Council and Assembly for amendment, but has been suffered to lie over without any steps having been taken towards this object.

Difficulties have been felt arising from the comparatively impoverished state of the colony, which have been increased by the arrival of the arms, as the price is found to be much higher than was anticipated. At the time these arms were ordered the Treasury contained a surplus, but a delay of more than a year and a-half occurring in their arrival, it melted away in unavoidable expenses, leaving but little hope of its being replaced, unless under more favourable circumstances in the affairs of the colony. By the Act it was provided that the arms and accoutrements should, in the first place, be paid for from the Treasury, and that the invoice price should be charged to each militia man as he received them. The first provision cannot now be implemented, and it is more than doubtful whether it will be proper to call upon each man who may be drawn in the ballot to pay so considerable a sum as from 4*l.* to 5*l.*, to which his arms, clothing, and accoutrements will amount. At the same time it is to be regretted that the project for the formation of a militia should fall to the ground. Such a force, well organized, would, I consider, in addition to furthering the the important objects of maintaining internal tranquillity and repelling foreign aggression, be of essential service in keeping alive the patriotic feelings of the people, and also in promoting social union. It is, I believe, in the contemplation of the Legislature to petition for a grant of the arms and accoutrements. If this be not obtained, or at least a large abatement of the price, no other course will be open but to return them, and to abandon for the present all idea of a militia.

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Legislation.

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Several important enactments were passed by the Legislature during the year 1847. The two of 1st January, regulating the traffic in spirituous liquors, were expected to produce most beneficial results, and their working, at least that of the former, has hitherto, in a great measure, justified the anticipation. By it a duty of 6*d.* a gallon is imposed upon all rum consumed in the colony, the proceeds of which, amounting to 998*l.* 18*s.*, was devoted to immigration. A tax of 6*d.* may seem low upon such an article as rum, the wholesale price of which is about 2*s.* 6*d.* per gallon, being no more than 20 per cent. on its value, but it is considered advisable to present no inducement to smuggling, for which the numerous islands forming this Government, from the nature of their coasts, afford great facilities. This duty of 6*d.* a gallon was imposed chiefly with reference to purposes of revenue, and was not expected, by itself, to have much effect in lessening the consumption of ardent spirits; but the Act contains a clause imposing a heavy penalty upon any proprietor or attorney who gives, by way of gratuity, or for labour done, any rum or spirituous liquors, or any mixture thereof to any labourer. It was formerly, as is well known, the invariable practice to give allowances of rum to the labourers, and not unfrequently to bribe them by extra rations. That this abuse should have been permitted to exist so long is a matter of surprise; but having, as it were, become a confirmed habit, it is not so surprising that prejudice was enlisted in its favour, and that expedients have been attempted to evade the provisions of the law against it. Apprehensions were entertained that the labourers would not work if they did not receive their rum, which, however, experience has proved to be unfounded, as an equivalent in money is received with equal if not more satisfaction. No doubt a portion of this money is laid out in the purchase of rum, but still the temptation to drink is not so strongly put forward, and the well known desire of the people to accumulate Acts as an additional safeguard. Practically, from all the information I have obtained, the enactment works well; it has caused no dissatisfaction or indisposition to labour, and intemperance is undoubtedly decreasing.

The other Act passed on 1st January is intended to regulate the granting of licences for the sales of wines and spirits; under it any number of licences may be granted, either in town or in country, upon payment of certain sums which are much reduced from their previous amount. As regards the revenue, the result has been slightly unfavourable, for although many more licences were given out than in the previous year, the produce of 1846 was £ 1203 17 7

1847 was 1164 3 4

Decrease in 1847 £ 39 14 3

It seems to me that the only argument in favour of granting an unlimited number of licences at a low rate is to be derived from the tendency of such a measure to add to the public revenue, and that where such a result does not ensue its evil is unmitigated.

A large proportion of the estates have taken out licences and established rum shops, thereby, I should apprehend, in some measure obviating the good effects produced by the prevention of spirits being given as a gratuity. The profits derived from such a source cannot for a moment be put in competition with the advantage of encouraging sober habits among the people, were the subject to be ever regarded in no higher than an economic point of view. It is alleged that these estates' rum-shops are requisite, in order to prevent the labourers from wandering to a distance for the purpose of procuring spirits, and thereby causing a loss of time and work. This is an evil which, I think, would soon cure itself, as increased difficulty and trouble in procuring the gratification will, doubtless, gradually weaken and at length extinguish the desire for it. At all events it is an experiment worthy of a patient trial. The acknowledged decrease of intemperance has probably drawn attention from the encouragement given to that vice by legalizing the unlimited issue of licences at a low rate, but I entertain hopes that a modification, at least, of the enactment in question will at no distant period be obtained. The practice of giving rum on the estates being entirely discontinued, and licences issued with discrimination, and only in localities where houses seem required for the purposes of ordinary re-

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freshment, it may be expected that drunkenness, a vice now rare, will soon become extinct, at least among the rural population.

On the 27th January an Act was passed for promoting and encouraging the immigration of labourers, and for regulating contracts to be entered into with them. During the preceding year immigrants, to the number of , had been introduced from the island of Madeira under a previous Act, the provisions of which were found to be unsatisfactory. Contracts could be formed for one year only ; and this, experience showed, was too short a period to hold out the prospects of a fair remuneration to the planter for the expense of importation. With the sanction of Her Majesty's Government, this period was, by this Act, extended to three years; and it provides that a bounty of 4*l.* from the public treasury shall be paid on the importation of every adult immigrant from any place, the British West Indies excepted, such immigrants to be under a valid contract of service for three years; three-fourths of the above bounty payable when the contract shall be for a period between three years and twelve months, and one-third when the contract shall be for only six months. The adult age is taken at 15, and no one under that age is permitted to come under contract. Practically all the engagements have been made for two years; and thus the bounty paid has been 3*l.* for each adult, while the passage-money from Madeira (whence all the immigrants have come) is about 7*l.* 10*s.*; thus leaving 4*l.* 10*s.* to be paid by the employer. Besides this, as most of these people come in families, the planters have borne the whole expense of those under 15 years of age, which may be stated at an average of 3*l.* per head. The children do, however, I believe, almost universally labour upon the estates along with their parents and relatives, and are found useful in weeding and other light work. Many other provisions are introduced into this Act, which generally are found to work well, and to guard in an equitable manner the interests both of the immigrants and of the planters. One of the most important and well devised is that by which Commissions are to be issued from time to time, for the purpose of examining into and reporting upon the eligibility of each estate, on the score of salubrity, as a location for immigrants under their first contract. This has been strictly carried out, and no one is permitted to place a newly-arrived immigrant upon an estate which has been reported as unhealthy.

On the 20th December an Act was passed to alter and amend the Act extending the Act of the British Parliament to these islands, for the administration of criminal justice. Several of the provisions contained in the Act previously in operation had become antiquated, and were incapable of being carried into effect; and thus a hurtful uncertainty attached to the administration of criminal justice. More especially, a variety of offences were declared capital which are now never punished with death. The Act just passed assimilates the law to that of England. It is as yet premature to pronounce any opinion upon its effect. On the 29th June, with the advice of the Privy Council, I issued a proclamation, extending the provisions of the Passengers' Act to this colony. This I did by virtue of the clause of that Act, and the measure was called for in consequence of successful attempts having been made to seduce the Madeira immigrants to neighbouring colonies, under the fallacious expectation of higher wages than are here given. It was by no means intended to prevent those whose contracts were expired from going where they chose; but some were found to violate their engagements, and to suffer themselves to be allured away, and it was desirable to place every lawful impediment against such a proceeding. In addition to this, the measure was necessary for the safety of the people themselves, as they embarked, without hesitation, and with no regard to numbers, in small ill-found and worse provisioned vessels; thus incurring great risk to life, health, and property. This proclamation has, I believe, produced beneficial effects.

Population.

A census of the population taken in 1844 gives the number as—

12,739 males and
14,834 females, or a

Total of . . . 27,573

The white population, including males and females, amounted to only 1289. The census, although taken with as much exactness as circumstances permitted, does not exhibit some facts which it would be interesting as well as important to know. For instance, the numbers of males and females are given separately as wholes, without reference to colour; no enumeration is given of the black and coloured population separately; and the attempt at classification, with reference to age, was imperfect, owing to great numbers of the people being ignorant of their ages. It is generally supposed—and I believe, too, with good reason—that the whole amount of the population is considerably underrated. These imperfections arose, I am given to understand, in a great measure from the census having been the first ever taken, and from a suspicion on the part of the inhabitants, that the proceeding implied some concealed object by which they might be prejudiced. Were a census now to be undertaken, I apprehend that by applying judicious explanation, no difficulty or impediment would be experienced in obtaining correct information in every particular which is required. This would be of infinite importance as one of the guides in conducting the economies and legislation of the colony. It is supposed the population is increasing with considerable rapidity, so that its amount is now probably somewhat upwards of 30,000; for, by the census taken four years ago, and supposed too low—

We have	27,573
And by adding Madeira immigrants	1,979
There results	29,552

This population, although not large in proportion to the whole area of all the island composing this Government, is yet by no means small with reference to the extent actually occupied, the far greater part being mountain land covered with wood, and, in its present state, uninhabited. I have been unable to obtain a perfectly accurate statement of the total area of the colony, or of that portion which may be called inhabited; but, as a tolerable approximation in round numbers, I would put down the former at 150, and the latter at 50 square miles, which will give a population of 200 to the mile of the whole extent, and 600 of that actually tenanted. As nine-tenths of the population are available for agricultural labour, it would thus appear that there is no deficiency of people if they could be induced to work with steadiness and regularity. It is much to be regretted that no public registers of births, deaths, and marriages are kept. The returns in the Blue Book have been obtained from the clergymen of the various persuasions, and are, I believe, as far as they go, correct at least in respect to births and marriages, most of the children being now baptised in infancy. The deaths include only those of persons whose bodies are interred in the different churchyards; and, as many burials take place in other localities, the number 396 put down in the Blue Book is much too small. No return is made of those professing the Roman Catholic religion, who are supposed to amount, including the Madeirese, to about 7000. By allowing to them a similar proportion of births, deaths, and marriages, as that given in the Blue Book, for the rest of the inhabitants the total will be as follows:—

Births	1239
Marriages	282
Deaths	517

But these calculations must be regarded only as probable of proximations to the truth; and it is to be hoped that the obvious advantages of possessing correct information upon the subject will, ere long, command effective attention.

The imposition of a tax upon all rum consumed in the colony has, this year, thrown an additional light upon the quantity consumed. It would seem that very nearly 40,000 gallons paid duty; and, as it is not unreasonable to suppose that the actual consumption was considerably more, 50,000 may, I consider, be fairly put down as not exceeding the total. A calculation has also been made, from the Custom-house and Treasury returns, which, making a moderate allowance for smuggling, shows that, adding what has been imported, the value of wine, spirits, and malt liquors has exceeded 20,000*l.*, which is more than the revenue. This large consumption of liquor and waste of means is unques-

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tionably to be deplored, and might lead to the inference that drunkenness is a prevailing vice. Nevertheless, it is a fact that the sight of any one in a state of intoxication is most rare indeed.

I have come to the conclusion that the comfortable condition of the population, as it removes the incentive to drink occasioned by misery, so it enables them generally to indulge with moderation in the exciting luxury of the bottle; and that thus, while the consumption of spirits is large, it is so diffused as to render intoxication of very unfrequent occurrence.

The reports of the magistrates agree in stating that intemperance has diminished greatly; and I am inclined to impute the decrease in the number of violent crimes chiefly to its diminution. Yet, notwithstanding all this, it is much to be wished that the habit of drinking were still less prevalent. Operating upon an excitable temperament, the effect of even a moderate quantity of ardent spirits is to rouse and inflame the passions to a dangerous degree, and thereby to produce many social evils. We may hope that the abolition of the practice of giving rum upon the estates, as a gratuity, will have a favourable tendency; but the real remedy is to be looked for in the furtherance of all those institutions of which the object is to elevate the moral and intellectual condition of the inhabitants.

The state of the Colonial Hospital (the only institution of the kind, and situate in Kingstown) is by no means such as is desirable. It enjoys a grant of 200*l.* per annum from the Treasury; which sum, as the population increases, will be found quite inadequate, unless private contributions are largely increased. The latter, I am sorry to say, are not, at present, very liberal; and the result is, that the institution is in debt, and the Directors are under the necessity of restricting the admissions to an extent that is highly injurious to the interests of the sick poor, and is painful to themselves.

Complaints are made of the rules and of the management; but, upon investigation, I can see no just grounds for them: the most is made of the limited means, and it is in fact the supply of funds that is wanting. The appointment of the Directors, in number seven, is vested in the executive; but their services, of course, are entirely gratuitous. It appeared to me that the constitution of what ought to be a highly popular institution, should be placed upon a more popular basis; and I therefore made a proposition to the Legislature for an alteration of the law relating to the hospital. This was to the effect, that the Directors (with the exception of the President of the Board of Council and the Speaker of the House of Assembly, who were always *ex-officio* to be in the direction) should be elected by the contributors, who should have one or more votes, in proportion to the amount of their subscription or donation, and that two of the number should retire annually by rotation, but who might be re-elected. If this proposal is carried out, it may be hoped that greater interest and more satisfaction will be felt by the public; that the names of contributors will be multiplied, and that the sphere of usefulness of the hospital will be extended. Should the experiment prove successful, it may even afford an inducement to form other hospitals in one or two places where near relief is required for the aged and infirm. For persons suffering under two dreadful maladies, there is no public provision—I mean lunatics and lepers: the former are few, very few indeed, in proportion to the population; but the latter, I regret to say, are increasing in number, and are, I am informed, more numerous than is generally supposed. I have on several occasions brought under the consideration of the Legislature the subject of a leper asylum.

Two lunatics have been confined in the gaol, and, under proper treatment, were sent out—one completely cured, and the other restored to such a state as to enable him to work for his support. There is at present one under the charge of the gaoler.

Although the greater number of immigrants from Madeira arrived during the year 1846, in order to afford a complete view of the subject, I annex a detailed report of all who have been landed up to the end of 1847.

Satisfaction is generally expressed at the results which have hitherto attended the experiment of introducing these immigrants, although the expense to the colony has been very considerable. They have proved, in most instances, good workmen, and there is little cause to complain of their conduct. Their industry, stimulated by a keen desire to earn and save money, is exemplary; but this desire is unfortunately carried to excess, leading to a neglect of the

comforts, and, in not a few instances, to a self-deprivation of the necessities, of life. In this climate, more than in temperate regions, labour cannot be sustained, consistently with health, except by the aid of nourishing diet. The Portuguese are not wanting in the means of procuring all that is requisite, but grudge the smallest outlay of money. My inquiries have resulted in the belief that kind treatment is universally bestowed upon them, especially in sickness; but it cannot of course be expected that, in addition to medical attendance, their employers are to be at the expense of supplying them with those medical comforts for which they themselves are able to pay.

It is thus complained of by the medical men, that diseases, which might otherwise be surmounted, prove fatal from exhaustion caused by refusal to employ the means recommended, and which are within their reach. I will mention one instance, as narrated to me by a medical gentleman of extensive practice among these people. Finding a man in a very low and feeble state, he directed him to have some soup, and told him to buy a fowl wherewith to make it: the reply was, "I have no money;" upon which the overseer, who was present, asked, "What has become of the dollar I gave you yesterday?" but to this question there was given no satisfactory answer. On looking about the room the doctor observed, piled up near the bed, a quantity of yams of the value at least of five or six dollars, and suggested that some of them should be sold to buy what the sick man required; but to the proposal the utmost repugnance was evinced. This, I fear, is only one case out of many; the amassing of money seems the ruling passion, and I do not think I err in attributing a large proportion of the disease which has existed to its injurious operation, and yet the total amount of sickness and deaths has been less than might have been expected. The climate seems not, in general, to have a greatly injurious effect upon the constitutions of the immigrants. In some low and swampy situations they have suffered much, and a great proportion died shortly after arrival, and this led to the enactment which I have noticed. On the windward coast, little or no sickness has been experienced; and, indeed, that portion of the island, as it is the richest and best cultivated, seems, most fortunately, the best adapted to the constitution of the white races. Occasional restlessness has been shown, and a desire to change from one estate to another upon the expiring of engagements. This has had an injurious effect upon the immigrants themselves, as it not only has occasioned sickness, brought on by wandering about the country, but has deprived them of proper attendance under illness. In these circumstances several have been taken into the colonial hospital, some of whom were cured; but, in several instances, disease and debility had arrived at such a stage that medical aid was unavailing. A few have betaken themselves to small dealing, but I have heard no complaints on this score, either from the planters or the native dealers. It is my opinion that most of these people came here with the prospect and intention of making money and then returning to their native island; but I think it probable that many will permanently take up their abode here. A kindly feeling subsists between them and the native population: only one instance has come under my observation in which a Portuguese was seriously injured by a negro. I am not aware that any intermarriages have taken place, but consider it probable that in course of time they will do so, as the habits and language become more assimilated. In the meantime, it is to be regretted that no means exist of affording adequate provision for either the religious or secular instruction of the strangers. They are all Roman Catholics, and few of them, as yet, speak any language except Portuguese; it is, therefore, impossible that the single priest of the colony and his assistant, although zealous and active, can afford much service to them, and they are thus left almost totally without instruction of any kind. The young people are very expert in acquiring the English language, and it is to be hoped that, in a short time, many will be induced to take advantage of the schools which are open to them. The habits of the immigrants are, in general, sober, although the temptation of rum proves sometimes too strong to be resisted; and I have myself, occasionally, but not often, seen a Portuguese lying dead drunk on the road.

From what has been said, it will be seen that the experiment of immigration has here proved hitherto successful, and I would not hesitate to recommend its continuance if requisite.

Nothing can conduce more to the welfare and happiness of a whole com-

munity than a comfortable condition of the labouring classes, and, as it exists here at present, so it is desirable that it be maintained ; but it seems doubtful whether the present scale of wages can be kept up by the planter, with the prices of his produce falling as they are, so as to afford a profit upon cultivation. In this view one of two plans must take place, if cultivation is to be continued, viz., either a diminution of wages or an increase in the amount of work : the latter seems to me the more desirable alternative. Although hard and continued labour out of doors would, in this climate, prove injurious to any constitution, it is yet universally acknowledged that the length of time occupied daily in work is less than may be so employed consistently with perfect health and comfort. Could a greater amount of labour, therefore, be thus obtained, it would add to the profits of the employers without affecting the comforts of the people ; it might even be expected to produce an additional good effect by causing the occupation of that time which, from being unemployed, may afford a temptation to idleness or vice.

Were the labourers obliged to submit to either a decrease of wages or an increase of work, and the choice left to themselves, I entertain no doubt they would decide in favour of the latter, provided it was only to a reasonable amount. But any attempt at a change is attended with difficulty, their circumstances being by no means such as to compel them to submit to it ; because the means of living, with little or no labour, can, in a great majority of instances, be obtained. I am inclined to think the difficulty will be gradually removed by the agency of various causes. In the first place, the increase of population will occasion a greater competition for the means of living ; secondly, as education and intelligence progress, increasing desire will be felt for advancement in the social scale ; and thirdly, artificial wants, by being multiplied, will act as a stimulus to industry. An idea has been promulgated by writers who have considered the subject of free and slave labour that, in this climate, some species of physical compulsion will always be requisite to obtain an adequate amount of work ; this is by no means the opinion which my observation has led me to form. The very fact that, at the present moment, a certain amount of labour is willingly undergone by people who may live and enjoy ease without it, shows that they are actuated by some moral motive stronger than the mere desire of existence, and leads to the inference that, were the motive strengthened, its operation would become more intense.

Much of the unsteadiness and want of regularity in labour seems to be attributable to two causes, one of which is the free allotment of houses and provision-grounds, and the other the system of monthly hiring. They occasion a degree of independence of the labourer upon his employer which is injurious to the true interests of both. I do not object to the labourers occupying pieces of land ; on the contrary, I am disposed to advocate what is called the village system, provided the villages are in the near neighbourhood of the estates ; but propose that the houses and grounds should either be purchased or rented by the year at least, or even for a term of years, by the occupiers.

A fixed agricultural population would thus be established. With regard to the period of hiring, as the operations of agriculture and the making of sugar are annual, it appears that the term of a year is the natural one for engagements. I believe the planters would be glad generally to adopt annual hiring, but it is doubtful whether the labourers could easily be persuaded to what they may be disposed to regard as a great restriction of their liberty.

Such advantages, however, are sure to follow to all parties that they are certainly worth the endeavour to obtain them.

The cessation from labour on Saturday seems an unnecessary relaxation, and leads to many irregularities. No better reason can be assigned for it than old habit, and the sooner it is got rid of the better. It is not easy to see why a sixth part of the increase which may be obtained should be sacrificed here more than in other quarters of the globe. The practice originated during slavery, when Saturday was allowed to the slave for the cultivation of his provision-ground and the sale of his produce, because his whole time and strength during the other five days were fully drawn upon by his master. No such reason now exists ; the hours of labour will never be oppressively protracted, and a very short time devoted daily to the provision-grounds will suffice. The custom of coming to Kingstown to market, on Saturday, from

remote parts of the island is injurious : it is a waste both of time and money. Were the industrial occupation of Saturday to cause its discontinuance, better and more economical modes of enabling the people to dispose of their produce and make their purchases would soon be substituted.

Ecclesiastical Return.

On advertng to the Ecclesiastical Return, it will be found that, exclusive of the Presbyterians and Roman Catholics, of whom no returns are inserted, the number of persons who generally attend Church service throughout the colony appears to be 13,110. If a proportionate allowance is made for the attendance of members of the Presbyterian and Roman Catholic Churches, it would seem that nearly one-half of the total population habitually joins in public worship. This is a striking fact, and would almost lead to a suspicion of some mistake in figures, but from any one who has under his eye the unceasing and zealous efforts which are being made by the ministers of religion, such a suspicion will vanish. They have also, unquestionably, a good field wherein to labour, as the strong inclination of the people to join in public worship must be apparent to all who turn a slight degree of attention to their habits. The Presbyterian Church in Kingstown is capable of accommodating about 300 sitters, but is not in general numerously attended, as the members of this persuasion in the town are few. There are a good many throughout the island, consisting chiefly of Scotch managers, overseers, &c., upon the estates. The clergyman is therefore used to hold service at various stations. A second minister is desirable, as the interruptions to regular and stated service have an evil effect upon the church-going habits of the congregation. During the latter portion of the year the Presbyterian Church has been closed, owing to the departure of the minister, but measures are taking to secure the services of another, which it is hoped will soon be successful. The Roman Catholic Church in Kingstown is, I believe, generally well attended. The priest and his assistant officiate also frequently in other localities.

Under the subject of immigrants, I have stated that it is much to be wished the Portuguese could have the benefit of a priest who has a knowledge of their language and habits. I am given to understand that they themselves would willingly contribute somewhat towards the expense of his salary, and it is a subject which it is to be hoped may be favourably considered by the Legislature. There are several stations at which churches of the Establishment are much required. I would more particularly mention three, viz., Chateaubellair, Layon, and Biabon. The two former are small towns, containing a considerable and daily increasing population. The chapels which they possess are merely houses rented at the public expense, generally in a bad state of repair, and, in fact, unfit properly to fulfil the purpose to which they are put.

At Chateaubellair it is expected that a piece of land will be obtained suitable for the site of a church and burial-ground, and the rent now paid for indifferent accommodation would cover a greater part of the interest of the money required for the completion of the building. I entertain hopes, therefore, that this desirable undertaking may be carried into effect. At Biabon, although the population in the neighbourhood is dense, there is no place of worship at all belonging to the Establishment. Arrangements are in progress for obtaining the site of a church there also, but I fear that the want of funds will, for an indefinite period of time, prevent the erection of such an edifice.

Education.

The withdrawal of the aid afforded by the Home Government, and the requirement of small school fees, operated, at first, unfavourably on the cause of education, and complaints were frequent from teachers and other persons most intimately cognizant of the subject, that parents began to withdraw their children from the schools, refusing to pay the penny or two-pence a-week demanded. The reluctance to pay so small a sum arose, certainly not from want of means, nor do I attribute it altogether to total absence of interest in the education of their children. It must be referred, I think, to habit and a want of knowledge or reflection upon the subject. Finding that great exertions were made to instruct the children, without expense to the parents, it was perhaps not unnaturally concluded that other parties had an equal, if not a

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greater interest, in the process; and a hope was entertained that the pupils, taken from the schools, might be eagerly urged to return on the former system of gratuitous instruction. Clearer and better ideas are, however, by degrees, becoming impressed upon the great bulk of the people, and there is ground for the expectation that the number of the children attending the schools will henceforth, instead of retrograding, progressively and steadily advance. In the town of Kingstown alone the average number of pupils is—

Males . . .	388
Females . . .	296
<hr/>	
Total . . .	684

which, under all circumstances, is entitled to be regarded as a respectable number out of a population of about 5000. In other parts, the proportion is not, of course, so great, the totals throughout the colony being—

Males . . .	1140
Females . . .	886
<hr/>	
Total . . .	2026

Upon going into any of the school-houses one is struck with the fact that the pupils are almost invariably very young, there being few or none above the age of 12 or 13. This fact, while it accounts for the limited attendance at school, also goes towards explaining its cause. It would appear that the children are removed as soon as they can be of domestic assistance to their parents or other relatives. I say domestic assistance, because it is not found that a variation in the number attending school has any sensible effect upon that of the youth under the age of 15 who are at work for hire.

In most of the schools the elementary branches of learning alone are taught, viz., reading, writing, and arithmetic; and, in the existing state of the community, this, in addition to religious instruction, which is always included, is all that can be expected, or perhaps even desired, for the great mass of the population.

Kingstown possesses two schools of a higher grade, one of which, termed the Proprietary Grammar School, was established by subscription. The other is under the auspices of the Presbyterian Association. They each have a male and female teacher of superior qualifications. The number of pupils attending the Grammar School is—

Males . . .	22
Females . . .	13
<hr/>	
Total . . .	35

and the Presbyterian School—

Males . . .	28
Females . . .	12
<hr/>	
Total . . .	40

There are thus 75 young persons receiving a higher class education within the colony. The system of tuition is the same as that generally followed in the grammar schools of the mother country, and embraces all the branches of education commonly taught therein. The abilities and zeal of the teachers of these two schools are deserving of the highest commendation, and I believe that the pupils will bear comparison, as to acquirements and progress, with those of similar age and of most schools in Great Britain. They consist of the children of the wealthier classes of all colours; while, with the object of rendering education of more value in the eyes of the people, small fees are demanded in most of the elementary schools, except in cases of undoubted poverty on the part of parents; these form a very small portion of the funds available for the support of the establishments.

A public grant of 150*l.* per annum is paid to the Society for the Education of the Poor, a most praiseworthy institution, conducted under the auspices of the coloured gentlemen of Kingstown, assisted by the rector; and, since the

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withdrawal of aid from the Home Government, an Act has been passed giving a further sum of 775*l.* for educational purposes, as follows:—

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	£.
Proprietary Grammar School	200
Presbyterian School	150
Wesleyan School in Kingstown	150
Roman Catholic	50
Parish Schools:	
St. George and St. Andrew	60
St. Patrick	30
St. David's	30
North and South:	
Charlotte	75
Grenadines	30
Total	<u>£775</u>

I have at different times visited various of the schools for the poorer classes, and have been generally pleased with their condition. The children, almost universally, exhibit peculiar dexterity and neatness in writing, and many of them appear expert in arithmetic. As a fact, exhibiting attention and care, I may mention that, in one school (at Chateaubellair) I detected only a single soil or blot in the pages of 15 or 20 writing-books which I examined.

Although the sum granted by the Legislature, in support of education, is unquestionably large in proportion to the means of the colony, being not far from 5 per cent. of the whole revenue, yet as it is apportioned among a great many schools, and as the fees paid are so very small, the emoluments of the teachers are in many cases indifferent. It is not therefore to be expected that much progress can be made towards the adoption of the improved systems of teaching and training now so much recommended and prominently brought forward in the mother country. Fully to carry out these systems, the teachers must themselves be trained in a course of education especially adapted to their vocation, and to effect this no means are within reach. Even could some young men be sent to England to be educated as teachers, an adequate remuneration would not await them on their return to the colony. In present circumstances we must be content with distributing among the teachers such books and pamphlets as may afford information on the conduct of their labours, and, at the same time, give them all encouragement in the prosecution of their arduous and important duties. The establishment of industrial schools has been recommended, and, were the first difficulties and expense of such an undertaking once surmounted, its success can hardly be doubtful. Facilities are held out for the advantageous conduct of such schools by soil, climate, and other local advantages, which would, I think, with ordinary supervision, soon render them self-supporting.

In addition to the useful and practical knowledge to be gained in institutions of this nature, a highly beneficial effect may be expected to follow their operation upon the character of the people, by inducing habits of regularity and steady industry, which, by degrees, might be expected to overcome those adverse circumstances that have stood in the way of their acquirement.

Imports and Exports.

Little or no variation takes place from year to year in the nature of the articles of the import and export. The habits of the people, in this respect, seem to have been formed, and to have become nearly fixed, in a condition which they will probably retain, unless some unexpected social change should occur.

Coins, Exchanges, &c.

Trouble and inconvenience, and in some cases loss are caused by the variety of coins in circulation, as well as by accounts being kept in different denominations. The quarters and eighths of the dollar being very near in value to shillings and sixpences, are not unfrequently paid as such, and *vice versa*. Thus there is encouraged a want of that precision in money payments which it is

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always desirable to facilitate; for if precision is insisted upon, a loss of time is occasioned in calculations about pence and halfpence. Since the great increase of intercourse with America, the dollar and its parts have formed the much larger portion of the circulation; and it seems to me to be desired that the medium should be as far as possible confined to these coins. Payments would be effected with facility and exactness, and the ease in keeping accounts would realize a great saving of time. I am aware of the difficulties which stand in the way of the accomplishment of this object, but would suggest that it may be gradually attained by a coinage in Great Britain of dollars and their fractional parts. Bankers and others importing specie from England would doubtless give a preference to these coins. All the notes issued by the banks are promises to pay from five dollars upwards. No one ever speaks of the value of any article as being so many pounds or shillings, but so many dollars and cents; and it is not easy to perceive any object in keeping up the fiction of sterling.

I have much desired to obtain even an approximation to the amount of coin and paper currency in circulation, but have not succeeded. Recently, however, suggestions have been afforded me as to sources of information from which I hope for some light upon this subject. By referring to page 161 of the Blue Book, it will be seen that the managers of the banks decline to state the amount of paper currency in circulation. We are thus in the dark as regards an important index of the economical state of the colony. The practice prevalent among the labouring population of hoarding up money, especially coin, is well known, and it is supposed that large sums are thus disposed of. The Madeira immigrants, too, have either imported this practice, or have not been slow to follow the example set them by the natives. It thus happens that the coin is as it were absorbed, and taken constantly out of circulation. This has unquestionably exercised some influence in causing the scarcity for some time complained of, and has the evil effect of creating a necessity for the supply of a greater quantity of specie than would otherwise be required to circulate the transactions of the community. It is not easy to provide a specific remedy for this evil, nor indeed any others than those which may be furnished by advance in the intelligence, and improvement in the habits of the mass of the population. For a long time after the establishment of the banks they obtained no confidence from the lower classes; and even now few are found to deposit their savings therein, which are almost universally considered safer, and more under the control of the owner, in a bag and in his own custody. A savings' bank has been proposed, but I fear that this want of confidence would render its operation extremely limited. Perhaps the temptation of a high rate of interest might draw forth some hoards; but how are the deposits to be invested so as to provide for such interest, besides the expense of management? No means that I can see at present exist within the colony of profitable investment on such security as could be immediately convertible; and were stoppage to occur in the payment of deposits when demanded, confidence will of course be still further impaired or even totally ruined. The establishment of central sugar manufactories may have some influence upon this matter. If conducted by substantial companies, an investment may be found in shares which will be readily and perhaps advantageously convertible.

Weights and Measures.

The weights and measures require revision. I have cause to believe that not a little fraud and much unintentional deception takes place from the want of proper regulations in this respect. Articles are sold by measure or by price which should be tested by weight alone; and there are grounds for suspicion that frequently neither the weights nor measures are of the proper standard value. This is a subject which I hope soon to bring under the notice of the Legislature.

Agriculture.

I have stated in the opening of this Report that considerable improvements in agriculture have been effected, but it appears to me not doubtful that many more might be introduced with advantage.

Little seems to have been effected with a view to the abridgment of human labour; and what may be termed implements of husbandry are not fre-

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quently to be seen in use. I should be very diffident in stating an opinion at variance with what seems to prevail among many of the most experienced planters, that the plough cannot be generally brought into use. It certainly does seem to me that there are extensive tracts of the finest land which may be, with great economy, subjected to the operation of that instrument. No doubt there are many portions of ground, at present under cane cultivation, of which the great steepness and other circumstances present a bar to the use of the plough. Some of these may be cultivated to advantage under the present system of the hoe, but it admits of a question whether a great portion of them can be made to produce the cane profitably under any mode of culture. They are intended by nature for other products. The quantity of sugar which an estate yields cannot be viewed as the sole criterion of its prosperity; the comparative cost of production must also be taken into account. Accordingly it would seem prudent to confine the cultivation to the richer and more accessible lands, and to devote attention to the drawing out of their utmost capabilities. It strikes me that this course of proceeding will be gradually adopted, and will be found to give the largest profits at the smallest expense.

It is very natural that the production of sugar should be regarded as the chief branch of industry, but it by no means follows that others ought to be almost totally neglected.

The esculent vegetables more peculiar to the tropics flourish luxuriantly with little care or cultivation; and most of those belonging to a temperate climate which have had common justice done to them come to a fair growth. The cultivation of vegetables of the country is confined exclusively to the labouring population for their own use and profit; it is not attended to with what can be called careful husbandry, nor is it to be expected that much knowledge of the best mode of management is brought to bear upon it; yet the profits are acknowledged to be great. Many estates contain portions of land well adapted for the growth of these vegetables, and indeed on the very best ground an occasional change of crop would seem advisable. Why is it not adopted? I can see no reason but adherence to old and routine habit, connected with a desire to produce and export a large quantity of sugar without reference to any other advantage. The change suggested could obviously be effected without the requirement of any additional capital; and, moreover, the now well-understood principles of agriculture justify the confidence that its application towards giving full advantage to the better soil, and drawing from the poorer and less favourably situated what can be cheaply extracted, would ere long realize not only larger profits, but even a greater absolute amount of the staple produce itself, although from a small breadth of land. Such a change would also be likely to cause more attention to the rearing and feeding of stock, by affording for them a better supply of food. At present this branch of rural economy cannot be characterized as otherwise than much neglected, and yet I am convinced that it might be turned to good and profitable account.

The price of butcher meat in the market is exorbitant, being for mutton 1s. and for beef 10d. per lb., and the quality is generally miserable. And yet occasionally really good meat is produced, showing that want of attention and not any evil of climate or soil is to be accused of what is bad. I know well the force of habit in affairs long continued, and will not be surprised if these remarks upon the agriculture of this colony are regarded as visionary. I trust however they will not be viewed as at all offensive, or meant to convey reprehension upon the industry and skill of the planters more than any other suggestions of improvement. They result from the observation and reflection of one who is at least unprejudiced, and are put forth with the single purpose of promoting progress and improvement.

Produce and Merchandise, &c. &c.

The average prices of produce and merchandise do not, as a general rule, vary much from year to year, and are usually high;—butcher meat, the produce of the dairy, poultry, fish, and all articles which may be termed necessary to the wealthier classes are high priced. This is caused by the limited attention paid to their production, the cultivation of the sugar-cane engrossing almost every care, and land being devoted to it which it would seem might be more advantageously made to yield food for the consumption of the inhabitants.

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Vegetables, or, as they are termed, provisions, because they form the most material part of the food of the labouring population, have varied much in price, as they always do, at different periods of the year. It would appear as if little care or economy were bestowed upon them, so that abundance is soon followed by comparative scarcity; and it thus happens that the price has fluctuated to the extent of at least doubling. The lowest price is, however, higher than the average of that of the esculent vegetables in Great Britain; so that, taking account of the small labour required for their cultivation, and the rapid and exceeding vegetation, the profit to the grower must be immense. An acre of yams has been worth as much as 30*l.* or 35*l.* Wages for labour viewed relatively are unquestionably high; that is to say, every individual bestowing manual labour for hire, receives in return for it a large portion of what are regarded by him as the necessities and comforts of life. Nay more, he is enabled to indulge in not a few luxuries and superfluities. This may have the appearance of a paradox in juxtaposition with my foregoing statement as to high prices; but it must be borne in mind how few, in this climate, are the necessities of life. They are, in strict fact, confined to the one article of food, and the simple articles of clothing required by the climate; everything else may be regarded as either a comfort or luxury. It is not easy to estimate the precise amount of the wages given to agricultural labourers, and some misapprehension may exist upon this subject. They are usually stated at 8*d.* a-day for the first class, and proportionally less for the others. This is the money wage alone; and, in addition, the labourer enjoys a house and patch of ground, and in some instances other perquisites. The value of these additions, at least of the patch of ground, of course varies; but I am certain that I take a low average when I put it down from 12*l.* to 15*l.* a-year. A labourer who works steadily for five days in the week, which is all that is required, will thus earn from 20*l.* to 25*l.* a-year. Such labourers as receive money wages alone have 1*s.* a-day and upwards, as agreed.

Manufactures, Mines, &c.

Strictly speaking, the making of Muscavado sugar and preparing arrow root should be called manufactures, but, being conducted by the same individuals as are engaged in raising the raw produce, they are hardly regarded in that light. It is to be hoped that the manufacture of sugar, at least, will ere long assume a different character. With the exception of those of some, but not many estates, it seems to me that the sugar-canes may all be worked off in a few central manufactories. Commencing towards the northern extremity of the island, we have, on the windward coast, a belt of cultivated land extending for five or six miles, with an average breadth of about one mile, having a tolerably even surface and a gradual slope towards the sea. It is obvious that a locality, as near the centre of this district as circumstances may permit, is well adapted for the position of a manufactory. Proceeding southwards, the country assumes a more broken aspect, but, with some exceptions, the cultivated land is contained in valleys in which tram-roads may, without large outlay, be laid down, most of which are of sufficient extent to supply a large amount of canes.

On the leeward coast, the difficulties opposed by the rugged nature of the country, do, in most instances, render the formation of tram-roads, or any mode of transport by land, of a large quantity of canes to one point from different estates, nearly impracticable, but the almost invariable smoothness of the sea at once suggests the facility with which water carriage may be adopted. There is, in the leeward district, a valley named Buccament, of large extent, and containing several estates which are said, at one time, to have produced 1000 hogsheads of sugar. This valley is watered by a stream well adapted to turn machinery, and appears, in all respects, one of the most favourable localities for a central manufactory.

I have already noticed the erection of extensive and improved machinery upon one estate. The proprietor, Henry Morgan, Esq., who merits high praise for his enterprise, intends, I believe, to extend his manufacture to the canes of such neighbouring estates as agree to furnish them. Hitherto he has been cramped in his operations from the want of a steam-engine of suitable power. He is about, I understand, to remedy this defect. It is to be hoped

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that his undertaking will meet with the success which it deserves, and draw capital to the establishment of central manufactories throughout the island. Many arguments both in favour of and against such establishments have been used. This is not a place to enter into a discussion of them, and I shall therefore only say that, having considered them all, I have no hesitation in pronouncing my individual opinion in favour of central manufactories. The manufacture of arrowroot is on the increase. The demand for this article, although becoming greater, does not appear extensive. Were it so, the quantity produced here might and probably would be much enlarged.

Land at present under cane cultivation, but which is not well adapted to it, might, with better profit, be put under arrowroot, as its cultivation requires only light labour, and its manufacture small capital. The quality produced fetches fully an average price in the market. Not many years ago a small plantation in this island furnished a very large proportion of all the arrowroot to Great Britain. I regard it as an article likely to become of increasing, and, ultimately, of great importance in the commerce of the colony. It is desirable that, where access can be had to them, returns should be obtained of the extent of land under different crops, and I have suggested a means of attaining this object. The average yield of cane land is supposed to be about one ton of sugar per acre, and the produce of this year is stated at 19,554,320 lbs. or 8730 tons nearly. This number of 8730 is probably not far from the number of acres of cane cultivation. It is impossible to arrive at any approximation to the extent of land under arrowroot or other produce. The provision grounds of the labouring population are, in the aggregate, extensive. With no fixed data upon which to proceed, but merely from passing observation and probability, I would guess them as embracing from 10,000 to 12,000 acres. Under the head of minerals may be mentioned an earth called Pozzolanna which has recently attracted notice. It has been analysed, and found to have properties which occasion it, when mixed with common mortar, to set and harden remarkably under water.

It seems a volcanic substance, and shows itself generally throughout the island apparently in inexhaustible quantities. Should it fulfil what is expected, it will prove of much use in the formation of Docks, Canal locks or other sub-marine structures, and perhaps become a valuable article of export.

Grants of Land.

During the early part of this year my attention was a good deal directed to the subject of the Crown lands, and I had prepared a report, with a view to recommending their disposal by a general sale. A change of circumstances, however, chiefly connected with the fall in the value of produce, together with more extended observation and inquiry, induced me to forego the transmission of that report. I have, in fact, come to the conclusion, that any extensive sale of the Crown lands would be at present premature and impolitic. Petitions for permission to purchase land are not unfrequent. In some cases it may be advisable to grant the prayer of these petitions, and in others not. I think the best course to adopt with regard to them is that they be referred to a commission composed of persons connected with local interests. The stipendiary justices are unanimous in reporting that the practice of squatting is abating. Thus one of the strongest reasons for a general sale of the Crown lands is being removed.

Gaols and Prisoners.

By a reference to the Blue Book, it will be seen that there is only one gaol or place of confinement or house of correction. This is not sufficient, and the inconvenience and expense of sending offenders to prison has led to the imposition of fines as a penalty instead of, in many instances, the more appropriate and effectual punishment of incarceration. A proposition has been made to legalize, as a prison, a building which is situate in the most populous district, and which was, at one time, used as a place of confinement and is now a police station.

Some alterations and repairs are requisite, but it may without much expense be turned to the purpose which it is wished it should serve. There is another building in an opposite quarter, but its position is so ill chosen that it cannot

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be recommended as a gaol, although it may serve as a lock-up house in which to secure prisoners for not more than one or two days. The situation of the gaol in Kingstown is certainly not the best which might have been chosen, and its unhealthiness had been for some time a subject of just complaint. Drainage has lately been effected in its neighbourhood with the most satisfactory results. The returns show no reason for dissatisfaction on the score of sickness. The number of persons in confinement during the year is stated at 278, and the cases of sickness only 25, or about 1 in 11. In 1846, out of 388 prisoners there were 59 cases of sickness, or more than 1 in 7. Be it remarked also that this season has been particularly wet, so that there can be no doubt of the improved salubrity of the gaol. It may be objected that whereas there were no deaths in 1846, four happened in 1847. Of these, however, one was that of a man, old and infirm, when placed in confinement, and the others, I believe, were not from the effects of illness contracted in the gaol. A more regular and strict system of internal management has been practised, and to this, also, in some degree, must be attributed the improved health of the prisoners. A Committee has reported on improvements to be made on the structure of the building, most of which will soon be accomplished. From the limited extent of the buildings it will be impossible to follow out, in any measure, to their full extent, the arrangements required for classification and separate confinement, but a nearer approach will be made to them than hitherto, more particularly as regards the employment of the convicts. Little or no accommodation is found for labour within the gaol, and it has therefore been imperative to employ, out of doors and in gangs, generally in the repair of roads, those sentenced to hard labour.

It is proposed to convert what were formerly intended for solitary cells, but are unfit for that purpose, into separate places of labour. The worst class of the malefactors will thus be kept apart from the rest and from each other, at least during the day, and this is an important step towards classification. To carry it much further would, I fear, cause an undue expense which the colony is unable to bear. A comparison with the previous year shows a most gratifying decrease in the number of persons committed to gaol, as leading to the inference that crime has greatly diminished, and when an analysis is made of the magisterial returns, as well as those in the Blue Book, the additional pleasing fact would appear that the amount of more heinous offences has been reduced in a double ratio. There is one fact which I wish to mention, because it has struck me as indicative, in a great measure, of an improved gaol discipline: I allude to the number of prisoners who have been committed twice, three times, or more. In 1846, out of a total of 388, there had been committed twice 118, and three times or more 135, being, in the first, 1 in $3\frac{1}{2}$, and, in the second, 1 in 3 nearly. Whereas, in 1847, of 278 the total, the numbers are 51 and 56, being 1 in $5\frac{1}{2}$, and 1 in 5 or thereabouts.

The most prevalent offences have been common assaults and petty thefts; a tendency to the latter being indeed the most prominent vice in the character of the lower orders. Among the females, I regret to say, the use of indecent and abusive language causes a large portion of the commitments. Some cases of incendiarism have taken place, but every effort has failed to detect the perpetrators. As usual with heinous and dangerous crimes, they followed one another to the number of four at small intervals of time, it would seem as from infection. The property destroyed being, in every instance, the same,—Megass houses. Having issued an address to the people, I have the pleasure of thinking it produced a good effect; at least, there were no more fires. No satisfactory conclusion can be arrived at as to the motive for these acts of fire-raising. They occurred in parts of the island distant from one another. In one case, attempts at plundering during the confusion were detected, but not in others. The labourers, as far as known, were on good terms with their employers, and, when my address was read to them, expressed abhorrence of the crime. When such acts are heard of at a distance from the scene of their occurrence, an impression is apt to be formed that an evil tone of feeling exists generally among the people. That this is not the case here I can, without hesitation, declare. I am convinced that, if malice or revenge prompted to these crimes, these passions were found only with the few cowardly miscreants who perpetrated the deeds, and who, far from being regarded with sympathy, are viewed with detestation by the great mass of the people.

Whether crime will continue to decrease is a question which, depending as it does upon so many circumstances impossible to foresee, cannot be positively answered.

But the elements now in operation would seem to point to the affirmative. Religious and moral duties and obligations are daily and hourly inculcated by an intelligent and zealous ministry, and those whose duty it is to detect offenders, and bring them to punishment, cannot be accused of remissness.

The physical condition of the population is one of great comfort, and, while it so continues, the fruitful source of vice arising from squalid poverty and leading to crime can have no existence. Under an enlarging sense of the value of the social duties declared by improved education, domestic ties are more generally regarded with respect. The relations of husband and wife, father and son, are better acknowledged as inferring the duties of fidelity, affection, and support.

But while we must congratulate ourselves upon the manifest and progressive improvement which has been presented, and may indulge a pleasing hope of its continuance, let it not be concealed that there is still much evil to be deplored, and much good to be effected, and let the result of past exertions only stimulate to fresh and sustained efforts the legislator, the teacher, and the philanthropist.

JOHN CAMPBELL,
Lieut.-Governor.

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RETURN of IMMIGRANTS imported into this Island from Madeira between 1st March, 1845, and 1st June, 1847.

Date of Arrival.	Name of Vessel.	Employer.	Location.	Men.	Women.	Children 10 to 15.	Children under 10.	Total.	Bounty.
									£. s. d.
1846 January 6	Ship Eliza	John McFee T. H. Dakins J. Porter " " " "	Cane Grove . C. Vale . Fairhall . Brighton . Escape . Rut. Vale . Hope .	38 28 5 4 4 4 5	20 14 5 3 3 3 6	Children included	.. .. .. .. .. .. ..	58 42 10 7 7 7 11	
				88	54	..	..	142	370 0 0
March 16.	Ship Eliza	A. Cumming " J. Whittall . T. H. Dakins " T. A. Mills . R. Chapman T. H. Dakins J. McFee Jas. Porter . " " " " "	Prospect . Bellvue . Cam. Park . Park Hill . Sans Souci . L. Mahant . Union . C. Vale . Cane Grove . Low. Diamond . Escape . M. Pleasant . Nut. Grove . Caruth . "	9 7 5 8 8 6 3 13 1 11 13 5 3 3 5	5 7 5 4 8 5 3 2 .. 5 1 .. 2 1 1	.. 1 4 3 1 5 1 1	6 5 11 10 8 7 7 1 5 1	20 20 25 25 25 23 14 16 1 21 15 5 5 3 7	
				100	48	16	61	225	624 0 0
April 23 .	Cath. Elizabeth	J. Whittall . D. Minors .	Cam. Park . Spring .	23 11	20 14	5 2	22 5	70 32	
				34	34	7	27	102	286 0 0
May 18 .	Ship Ruckers	J. Whittall . A. Torrance J. Symon . A. Robertson	C. Park . Kingstown . N. Prospect . Troumaca .	6 1 3 5	1 1 3 6	.. .. .. 2	.. 1 3 5	7 3 9 18	
				15	11	2	9	37	108 0 0

REPORTS EXHIBITING THE PAST AND PRESENT

Return of Immigrants imported into this Island from Madeira, &c.—continued.

Date of Arrival.	Name of Vessel.	Employer.	Location.	Men.	Women.	Children 10 to 15.	Children under 10.	Total.	Bounty.
1846									£. s. d.
July 3	Hallyards	Jas. Porter	Cal. Ridge	4	4	2	5	15	
		"	Calder	4	7	2	3	16	
		"	Mt. Grenan	2	4	2	4	12	
		"	Argyle	2	5	1	2	10	
		"	Cane Garden	3	1	4	1	9	
		"	Jambou Vale	4	6	1	4	15	
		"	Up. Adelphi	2	1	..	3	6	
		"	Marriaqua	2	1	..	2	5	
		T. H. Dakins	Mt. Bentinck	9	11	4	8	32	
		"	Mt. William	..	..	..	..	..
		"	Sans Souci	6	4	3	5	18	
				38	44	19	37	138	366 0 0
July 10	Jas. Cruikshank	W. Hunt	Cumberland	6	8	2	3	19	
		"	Questells	2	3	3	6	14	
		"	Rose Bank	4	7	7	2	15	
	A. Cumming	A. Cumming	Rabacca	8	4	1	1	14	
		"	Prospect	1	1	..	3	5	
		"	Lot 14	5	5	4	11	25	
		F. Winn	Cane Hall	6	7	5	6	24	
		J. L. Morris	Gibsons	2	..	..	..	2	
		J. L. Hazell	Paget Farm	2	1	..	2	5	
		J. Andain	"	1	1	..	2	4	
		R. A. St. Hill	Gibsons	..	3	1	1	5	
		Interpreter	Kingstown	1	..	..	..	1	No Bounty.
				41	43	20	40	144	372 0 0
July 20	Bolivar	H. G. Grant	Bellisle	10	9	4	15	38	84 0 0
August 18	Eliza	A. Robertson	Belmont	5	5	5	10	25	
		J. Dunlop	Owia	2	2	..	3	7	
		R. Chapman	Union	16	14	7	11	48	
		W. Smith	Peruvian Vale	7	6	2	7	22	
		T. Le Gall	Edinburgh	1	..	..	..	1	
		J. Porter	"	..	1	..	3	4	
		J. Ramsay	Kingstown	1	1	..	1	3	No Bounty.
		A. McLeod	"	4	..	..	..	4	
				36	29	14	35	114	264 0 0
October 17	Cath. Elizabeth	A. McLeod	Waterloo and Orangehill	16	18	3	9	46	
		A. Cumming	Rabacca and Lot 14 Est.	8	3	..	..	11	
		"	Prospect	12	8	3	7	30	
		John Reilly	Gomea	2	1	1	..	4	
		J. Whittall	Cam. Park	3	3	3	2	11	
		Geo. Cropper	Lowmans	1	1	1	1	4	
		T. C. Mills	Mt. Hope	4	4	1	3	12	
		W. Cropper	Queensbury	5	3	2	..	10	
		W. Leake	Montrose	1	..	..	..	1	
		R. A. St. Hill	Gibsons	1	..	..	..	1	
		R. Chapman	Union	4	5	4	9	22	
		Wm. Sayers	Mesopotamia	1	1	1	2	5	
		Jane Ross	Gomea	..	2	..	..	2	
		A. Torrance	King's Valley	1	..	..	1	2	
		John Herbert	"	1	1	..	2	4	
				60	50	19	35	164	478 0 0
Nov. 18	Victoria	Jas. Porter	Fairhall	1	2	..	..	3	
		"	Jambou	4	8	1	7	20	
		"	Escape	6	4	..	5	15	
		"	Walliabou	5	7	1	12	25	
		"	Mt. Pleasant	7	4	1	6	18	
		"	Mt. Grenan	1	2	..	2	5	
		"	Gomea	1	1	..	1	3	
		"	R. Vale	9	12	2	6	29	
		"	Kin. Valley	1	2	1	1	5	
		"	Villa	1	2	..	1	4	

STATE OF HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

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Return of Immigrants imported into this Island from Madeira, &c.—*continued.*

Date of Arrival.	Name of Vessel.	Employer.	Location.	Men.	Women.	Children 10 to 15.	Children under 10.	Total.	Bounty.
1846									£. s. d.
Nov. 18 .	Victoria . . .	Jas. Porter . .	Calder . . .	4	2	1	1	8	
			Argyle . . .	5	6	2	2	15	
			Calder . . .	1	1	1	2	5	
			Per. Vale . .	1	1	..	..	2	
				47	54	11	45	157	408 0 0
Dec. 31	Clydeside . .	A. Robertson . .	Tromaca . .	7	4	3	4	18	
		H. Smith . .	Per. Vale . .	6	6	1	6	19	
				13	10	4	10	37	100 0 0
1847									
January 7	D. Lyon . .	H. G. Grant . .	Arnos Vale . .	7	8	5	9	29	
		A. Cumming . .	San. Park . .	9	7	1	8	25	
		J. Reily . .	Gomea . .	..	..	1	..	1	
		J. Symon . .	Prospect . .	5	..	..	..	5	
		W. G. Grant . .	Arnos Vale . .	..	2	2	5	9	
				21	17	9	22	69	170 0 0
Feb. 17 .	Eliza . . .	W. Hunt . .	Pembroke . .	6	7	1	8	22	
		"	Ratho Mill . .	12	13	8	7	40	
		A. McLeod . .	Gr. Sable . .	5	9	5	5	24	
		J. Le Gall . .	Tourama . .	16	11	3	7	37	
		H. Morgan . .	Penistons . .	2	2	5	2	11	
		"	L. Diamond . .	9	6	1	3	19	
		F. D. Sutherland	Montrose . .	1	..	1	..	2	
				51	48	24	32	155	333 0 0
April 13 .	C. Elizabeth .	A. Cumming . .	Bellvue . .	8	8	3	10	29	
		H. Hackshaw . .	Mt. William . .	16	15	6	5	42	
		J. Whittall . .	C. Park . .	8	1	1	4	14	
		D. Huggins . .	Park Hill . .	7	7	5	6	25	
		Paid their own passage . . .		1	2	..	..	3	
				40	33	15	25	113	241 10 0
Sept. 1 .	Ruckers . .	A. Robertson . .	Belmont . .	3	1	..	..	4	
		F. Winn . .	Cane Hall . .	..	1	..	2	3	
		J. Porter . .	Mt. Pleasant . .	8	6	..	11	25	
		"	Mt. Bentinck . .	4	7	1	3	15	
		J. Whittall . .	Cam. Park . .	9	9	2	9	29	
		J. Reily . .	Gomea . .	1	1	..	..	2	
		J. Le Gall . .	Tourama . .	..	..	1	1	2	
		A. Cumming . .	Bellvue . .	..	2	..	2	4	
		C. Lediard . .	. . .	..	1	1	..	2	No Bounty.
				25	28	5	28	86	108 0 0

GRAND TOTAL.

	Immigrants.	Bounty.
		£. s. d.
By the Eliza	142	370 0 0
" Eliza	225	624 0 0
" Catherine Elizabeth . .	102	286 0 0
" Ruckers	37	108 0 0
" Hallyards	138	366 0 0
" James Cruikshank . .	144	372 0 0
" Bolivar	38	84 0 0
" Eliza	114	264 0 0
" Catherine Elizabeth . .	164	478 0 0
" Queen Victoria . . .	161	408 0 0
" Clydeside	37	100 0 0
" David Lyon	69	170 0 0
" Eliza	155	393 0 0
" Catherine Elizabeth . .	113	241 10 0
" Ruckers	86	108 0 0
	1,725	4,312 10 0

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ST. LUCIA.

ST. LUCIA.

No. 13.

(No. 44.)

No. 13.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor REID to Earl GREY.

Windward Islands, Barbados,

May 29, 1848.

(Received July 4, 1848.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the statistical returns in the Blue Book for the island of St. Lucia for the year 1847, along with Lieutenant-Governor Darling's Report.

Blue Book
for 1847.

23rd May, 1848.

No. 61.

With map of St.
Lucia.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) WM. REID.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c.

Encl. in No. 13.

Enclosure in No. 13.

St. Lucia, Government House,

May 23, 1848.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this colony for the year 1847, which has been placed in my hands by the Colonial Secretary since the last mail was despatched to Barbados.

This return has been usually completed at an earlier period of the year, and I believe the delay in the present instance is fairly attributable to the arrears of ordinary business in the Colonial Secretary's office, occasioned by the necessity of furnishing copies of numerous documents for the parties before the Court of Inquiry, of which Chief-Justice Arrindell was president, and during the proceedings of which it would appear that almost all other public business unavoidably stagnated.

Your Excellency is aware that I assumed the Lieutenant Government of the colony a few days after the expiration of the year which the Blue Book embraces, and I shall therefore, I trust, stand excused if this Report is more brief and imperfect than it would under other circumstances have been.

Under the Heads of Taxes and Duties.

The only variation which has taken place from those in force in 1846 appears to be an increase from five to seven and a half per cent. of the tax on the rental of houses in Castries; from four-pence to sixpence per hundred weight of the export duty on sugar; and of the stamp duty on "deeds of gift or donation inter vivos," in the case of a legitimate child to parent or other ascendant, from one per cent. to two per cent.; and in the case of illegitimate relations of the second or third degree, from six per cent. to eight per cent.; besides the imposition of an ad valorem duty, varying from two to ten per cent., according to nearness and legitimacy of relationship, upon all property, whether real or personal, and wherever situate or found, of persons resident or domiciled in the colony, dying in the colony or elsewhere, as well as upon all property within the colony of deceased persons not resident or domiciled in the colony.

The increase of the house tax from five to seven and a half per cent. was established for the purpose of meeting the increased expenditure occasioned by the interest and sinking fund (amounting together to an annual charge of 400*l.*) of the loan raised for the purpose of bringing water into the town of Castries.

The export duty was, I presume, raised in amount as an obvious mode of increasing the general revenue (although falling directly on the producer), an object which it fully accomplished; and the same motive, I conclude, dictated the increase in the stamp duty, and that upon the property of deceased persons.

With respect to the two last-mentioned duties, I venture to remark that they appear to recognize illegitimate relationship; a principle which I believe is a

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novel one in English law, although its force has long been admitted in cases where the property of intestates without legitimate heirs has been conferred by the grace of the Crown.

At this period of West Indian history I cannot think it a wise policy to make any distinction in favour of illegitimate relations, or, indeed, to recognize them at all by law. Although the operation of the enactment may be very limited, yet it cannot be said to harmonize with the efforts which have been made with so much perseverance to raise the moral standard of the people, and for the accomplishment of which one of the most obvious and effectual means would seem to be, not only to make the marriage state respected, but to let those who enter upon it feel that it brings with it civil and personal advantages.

Under the Head of Fees.

The fees taken by the district and superior Courts of Appeal are stated in addition to those included in the return for 1846.

In the district Courts of Appeal these fees are paid to the clerks and officers of the Court, and in the superior Court they are paid to the registrar, and constitute his remuneration for the duties of office.

A comparison of the revenue with that of 1846 shows the following results:—

1846:		£.	s.	d.
Total revenue as returned	.	17,304	18	2
Less:				
Balance from 1845	.	2,716	16	11
Arrears of 1845	.	1,025	10	3
			3,742	7 2
Actual revenue of 1846	.	£13,562	11	0
1847:		£.	s.	d.
Total revenue as returned	.	14,738	8	8
Less:				
Balance from 1846	.	2,054	3	1
Actual revenue of 1847	.	£12,684	5	7

Showing an excess in favour of 1846 of 878*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.*

This apparent excess in favour of 1846 is almost altogether attributable to the falling off in the amount actually paid into the treasury as duty on rum consumed in the island in the year 1847. A sum of about 1100*l.* under that head remained, however, unpaid at the end of the year, the greater part of which has since been realized, and which at once converts the decrease of revenue into an increase. The only other head of decrease of any importance is that of imports, and this is more than counterbalanced by the increase in the duty of exports.

I find that the tax on the rental of houses in towns, and that on cultivated land, have always been returned under the head of fixed revenue. I apprehend, however, that these taxes are incorrectly so classified, as they are annually imposed by the usual tax ordinance; and in the case of the land tax, the rate, as I have already pointed out, has been variable.

	£.	s.	d.
The total amount raised by direct taxes for the year 1847 appears to have been	5,359	11	6
Rent of Government property	170	0	0
Refunded by the Colonial Treasurer, pay overdrawn	149	0	0
Amount raised by indirect taxation	7,005	14	1
Making a total revenue collected, as already shown	£12,684	5	7

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The total amount of revenue uncollected, and which will appear as arrears in the accounts for 1848, is about 1550*l*.

EXPENDITURE.

	£.	s.	d.
The expenditure on account of the ordinary and fixed expense of the departments of Government was	12,812	12	8½
For contingent and accidental expenses	1,102	19	7
On account of miscellaneous civil services	44½	18	3½
Making a total of	14,360	10	7½
Besides an arrear of expenditure from 1846, amounting to	317	19	10
Making a total of	£14,678	10	5½

a sum which was more than covered by the revenue actually collected and the balance of revenue from the previous year.

Excluding in both cases the arrears from previous years, the expenditure of 1847 appears to have been about 200*l*. less than that of 1846.

It must be observed, that, with the exception of fees paid to the Roman Catholic clergy for performing the offices of the Church, and the contributions, either in labour or money, which every able-bodied male between the ages of 16 and 60 is bound to give for the formation and repair of roads, this expenditure includes every charge in the shape of taxes which is made upon the inhabitants, and provides for many purposes which are usually met by local assessments.

Thus the relief of the poor, the stipends of the clergy, assistance to schools, the annual payments on account of the works for bringing water into the town of Castries, the repairs of the wharves and erection of bridges in that town, are embraced in the expenditure, and amount in all to upwards of 4200*l*., or a sum little short of one-third of the whole. It will be seen, however, that assuming the population at 23,000, which I believe to be below rather than above the actual number, and the amount raised by taxation including the uncollected taxes, being 14,000*l*., that the taxation for the year shows a per-capita rate of about (12*s*.) twelve shillings; and as nearly one-half of the revenue was raised by direct taxation on the owners of estates, houses in towns, and ships, the mass of the people generally would seem to enjoy the advantages of civil government at a charge of which they have no reason to complain.

During the year 1847 Great Britain contributed to the maintenance of the civil establishment of the colony the sum of 3045*l*. 15*s*. 9*d*., and incurred on account of its military protection the sum of 12,131*l*. 9*s*. 9*d*., making altogether a charge of 15,177*l*. 4*s*. 6*d*. on the revenues of the mother country, while 14,360*l*. 10*s*. 7½*d*. was the amount defrayed by the colony.

I perceive on reference to the returns that the average expenditure of the last three years on account of military protection alone is 16,157*l*. 5*s*. 10*d*.

Population.

The population of the colony is returned at 22,545 souls, of whom 21,405 are Africans or of African descent.

By the Census of 1844 the total number of inhabitants was estimated at 21,001. The information with respect to births and deaths is, I fear, very inaccurate, and cannot be relied upon in computing the probable increase. Those persons most likely to form a correct opinion on the subject agree in placing the population at about 23,000, as I have already stated; of these, 4313 are supposed to be habitually engaged in agriculture, 1376 are returned as employed in manufactures; but the term applies only in this colony to the manufacture of sugar and rum, and the persons employed (with few exceptions) engage indiscriminately in the cultivation of the cane as well as in the manufacture of its juice.

When I estimate the total number of children under 16 years of age at 8000, I have probably taken the minimum; and it will be seen with regret that the return under the head of Education—

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Education

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gives only out of this number 520 children in all receiving education at schools; of these, 156 are infants. The education which the remaining 364 received during the year appears to have cost no less a sum than 1018*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*, or rather more than 2*l.* 15*s.* a head.

The juvenile schools included in this return are those conducted by the trustees of Lady Mico's charity, out of the funds of which a sum of between 500*l.* and 600*l.* is appropriated to educational purposes in Saint Lucia, and this appropriation has, since the year 1845, been met by an annual contribution of 500*l.* from the colonial revenue.

I am sorry to say that a comparison with the returns of the years 1845 and 1846 exhibits a falling off rather than an increase in the number of attendants on these schools. I believe this may be attributed to the fact that one of the schools has, in consequence of the death of the master, been unavoidably closed.

I fear, however, that the difficulty of obtaining good masters, which is common to all the West Indian colonies, is not the only one we have to contend with in Saint Lucia in an attempt to raise the standard of intelligence of the rising generation.

The total number of Protestants in a population of 23,000 people is about 600; and I am convinced I am far below the fact when I say that there are not 1000 persons (excluding the troops) in the whole community who speak and understand the English language.

I am only aware of three schools at which any effort is made by the religious teachers of the great mass of the people to impart secular education, and in one of these no attempt is made to teach the imperial language.

I mean not to reflect, in the remotest degree, upon the course which these reverend gentlemen pursue in the conscientious discharge of their duty; but I entertain a strong opinion that little will be effected without their co-operation in the important work of popular education.

I have already strongly expressed my sentiments on this question generally to the legislative council, and I shall lose no opportunity of endeavouring to secure their advice and assistance in the furtherance of a cause, upon the success of which it is impossible to doubt the future prosperity of the community must mainly depend.

There is much energy and zeal applied to the conduct of the infant schools; but I fear that the state of financial matters generally will occasion a withdrawal of a portion of those voluntary contributions by which they have hitherto been maintained. That they are the most effectual instruments by which the general use of the imperial language will be established cannot be questioned; but even to effect this object, however remotely, co-operative measures of various kinds are obviously called for.

The Ecclesiastical Return

shows that, for a Roman Catholic population of 22,400 people, out of which about 6000 generally attend public worship, eight curés are paid in the whole a sum of 800*l.* a-year out of the colonial revenue; and that for a Protestant population of about 600, out of whom 340 generally attend public worship, three Protestant clergymen receive from the colonial revenue a sum of 600*l.*

The Roman Catholic curés receive, moreover, fees from their flocks, of which in some instances no returns, and in others very imperfect ones, are made; and each is provided with a residence, denominated "the Presbytery."

The Protestant clergymen receive assistance from funds at the disposal of the Bishop, and one of them is also garrison chaplain, for which he receives an allowance of 127*l.* a-year.

The disproportion between the number of Protestant clergymen and of those who attend their ministry is occasioned by the circumstance that the Protestant population, though small, is settled in three different districts of the island.

Besides the eight Roman Catholic priests receiving stipends from the colonial revenue, there are two assistants to the curé of the parish of Saint Florent, in which the town of Castries is situated; one of these receives 120*l.* per annum from the parish, and 10*s.* a-week as chaplain to the Roman Catholic portion of the garrison.

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Four of the parochial curés are natives of Ireland, and four of French birth, speaking English not at all, and understanding it to a very limited extent.

Imports and Exports.

The official value of the imports of the year is given at 70,251*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.*, and that of exports at 116,439*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*; of the latter, however, it appears upon examination that a value of 5802*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.* consisted of imported articles, thus making the *bonâ fide* imports and exports stand thus:—

	£.	s.	d.
Imports	64,448	8	8
Exports	110,636	17	9

Being an excess in the value of exports over imports of 46,187*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.*

In a colony, however, where the land from which this excess is derived is either to a great extent owned by or heavily mortgaged to parties resident in the mother country, I fear that the balance of trade, although apparently in favour of the colony, is no proof of its internal prosperity, as none of the surplus returns can be devoted to schemes either for the moral or material advancement of the people.

The gross imports were one-fourth lower, and the gross exports more than one-third higher, in official value, than those of 1846.

The decrease in the imports appears to have taken place entirely under the head of goods of “the growth, produce, and manufacture of the United Kingdom,” imported directly from thence.

The quantity of sugar and rum exported was greater, I believe, than was ever before on record, the seasons having been unusually propitious; thus accounting, notwithstanding the lower value of the former article in 1847, for the increase in the total value of the exports.

Under the head of Gaols and Prisoners

I have no observations to offer beyond those contained in my Despatch, No. 18, of the 7th March last, transmitting the Inspector's annual report, and a transcript of the return inserted in the accompanying Blue Book.

Admitting its defects with regard to hospital accommodation, I consider the gaol to be a very well-regulated institution, and reflecting great credit upon those who have immediate charge of it.

I am fully sensible that this report very inadequately meets the instruction, that it should exhibit generally “the past and present state of the colony, and “its prospects in every political branch;” but considering my limited local experience, the consequent immaturity of my opinions, the doubtful prospects and depressed energies of that class of the colonists in whom almost exclusively the property and intelligence of the colony are united, and without whose zealous co-operation the future holds out but little prospect of improvement, I think I shall do more justice to the colonial interests, and better fulfil my duty to Her Majesty's Government, if I limit my present report to the few preceding remarks explanatory of the actual condition of the colony at the end of the year to which the Blue Book relates.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) C. H. DARLING,
Lieut.-Governor.

ANTIGUA.

ANTIGUA.

No. 14.

(No. 35.)

No. 14.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HIGGINSON to Earl GREY.

Government House, St. John's, June 1, 1848.

MY LORD,

(Received July 4, 1848.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, in duplicate, the Blue Book of this island for the year 1847, which appears to have been prepared with the care heretofore bestowed on this document by the officer whose duty it is to compile it.

The returns furnished exhibit a trifling increase in the estimated value of imports, and a very large augmentation in that of exports, as compared with the previous year: the return of imports being 217,998*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.* in 1847, as against 213,967*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.* in 1846; and of exports 369,590*l.* 10*s.* in 1847, against 177,520*l.* 10*s.* in 1846. The slight difference in the value of imports, 4031*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.*, does not require particular notice, further than as indicating no diminution of consumption in the past year.

The staple or sugar crop of 1847 reached 14,775 hogsheads, 1278 tierces, and 3227 barrels; that of 1846, 7171 hogsheads, 627 tierces, and 1368 barrels, giving in favour of 1847 an increase of 7604 hogsheads, 651 tierces, and 1859 barrels. This will sufficiently explain the cause of the great difference in the estimated value of exports for the two years; as it also shows that the expectation which I ventured to hold out in my last annual Report of the crops of 1846 and 1847, taken together, averaging that of 1845, has been realized.

I regret that there is reason to apprehend that this year's crop may fall short, in consequence of the long-continued drought, which proved injurious to the plant, both in its early stages and subsequently. From the same cause it will also be a late one, as up to the 26th ultimo 3330 hogsheads only have been shipped.

For the usual return of comparative annual receipts and expenditure, another form has been substituted in the pages under these heads, for the reason explained by the treasurer; but a separate statement is annexed, affording the information required. From this it will be found that the revenue for 1847 amounted to 34,154*l.* 18*s.* 2½*d.*, exceeding that of 1846 by 4365*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.*, from which, however, ought to be deducted the amount of a loan, 7582*l.* 4*s.* 1½*d.*, raised in the past year, and 1079*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.*, deposited by the savings' bank, reducing the ordinary income of 1847 to 25,493*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.* The expenditure of 1846 and 1847 is very nearly balanced, being respectively 37,384*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* and 37,237*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* Of this latter sum 11,946*l.* 2*s.* 10½*d.* appear to come under the head of extraordinary charges, and not to be estimated for in the expenditure of future years, diminishing the aggregate amount of ordinary expenditure to 25,291*l.* 0*s.* 5½*d.*; the ordinary income being, as stated above, 25,493*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.*

The interest on the public debt, with arrears, amounting to 2282*l.* 9*s.* 5½*d.*, and ultimate liquidation of the principal, aggregating 27,442*l.* 10*s.*, of which 20,000*l.* is the earthquake loan from the Imperial Government, are charges not included in the foregoing estimate; but it is expected that when the colony is relieved from the burden of maintaining the Imperial Customs' establishment, no further financial embarrassment need be apprehended.

No new public works have been undertaken in the past year. The cathedral and parish church of St. John's has been completed, and was opened for the celebration of Divine service on the 10th of October last. The cost of erecting this building, which has exceeded 35,000*l.* sterling, has proved a heavy drain on the public resources; and the effects of this extravagance will, I fear, be sensibly felt for some time to come.

Want of means retards the restoration of other churches, destroyed or injured by the calamitous visitation of 1843; but I am not aware that inconvenience is now experienced anywhere from insufficiency of church accommodation.

The repairs of public roads are progressing satisfactorily under the operation

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of the Act passed last year, transferring their direction and control from the parochial authorities to the executive, assisted by a Board of Commissioners. The annual sums appropriated to this service have been, by a more recent enactment, reduced, but not to a greater extent than ought to be met by the greatly diminished cost of labour; and the reduction, therefore, is not likely to interfere with the beneficial working of the original measure.

It affords me great satisfaction to be able to report that the general conduct of the labouring classes continues to merit the commendation heretofore bestowed on it, although I regret to add that the prison returns exhibit an increase both in the number of commitments and convictions, chiefly for petty larcenies, which may be accounted for in some degree by the greater difficulty experienced in earning a livelihood since the reduction of wages, and also by their inability, arising from the same cause, to pay the fines imposed by the police courts for various minor offences, in default of which they are committed to gaol.

The common gaol and house of correction, forming one prison, may be safely pronounced, considering the means of the colony, a very creditable institution. The discipline has latterly been improved by more efficient superintendence, procured by the augmentation of the subordinate officers' salaries, which has, on my suggestion, been sanctioned by the Legislature; and also by the alterations recently made, with your Lordship's approval, in the regulations for the government of the prison.

The residents of free or independent villages, that is, those detached from estates, so many of which have sprung up in this island since emancipation, have not increased within the year; and I am informed that in some instances the labourers have quitted them, and returned to settle on estates. I do not, however, believe that their desire to become possessed of land is less ardent, but their means of purchasing are more limited. I observe that the objections at one time entertained by proprietors to selling small building lots appear to have been removed; in some cases, portions of estates thus disposed of have realized more than could have been obtained from them in any other manner.

On the progress of education I lament that it is not in my power to report more favourably. Parents are less able to contribute towards the support of schools, and the Legislature have not yet made any grant from public funds in aid of them; but I encourage the hope that this may hereafter be accomplished whenever the island recovers from the pecuniary embarrassments by which her means of promoting objects of public utility are now sadly circumscribed. The imparting of useful knowledge and of industrial training to the rising generation ought, in my estimation, to take precedence of all others; and being keenly alive to its vast importance, whether as affecting the employers of labour or the employed, I shall omit no opportunity of bringing the question prominently forward, and of advocating its serious and careful consideration.

The school returns show that in 1846 there were under instruction, of some kind or other, 6342 children, and in 1847, 6493; but being desirous to ascertain more minutely what effect the general reduction of wages may have had on the cause of education, I addressed the ministers of the Church of England and of the Moravian and Wesleyan churches on the subject. A copy of my communication, with their replies, is annexed, from which it is satisfactory to learn that in their opinion, and no persons have better opportunities of forming a correct one, the effect has not been so unfavourable as might have been expected, either as regards the advancement of education or the physical and social condition of the working classes.

I ought to mention that during the past year a training school has been opened by the Moravian mission, into which children of a tender age are admitted as boarders, and where it is intended they shall remain until their education be completed, the object being to qualify them for the duties of teachers. The institution is yet in infancy, but it has commenced under favourable auspices, and there seems no reason to doubt its ultimate success.

No immigrants have been introduced into this island, either from Madeira or elsewhere, subsequently to the date of the return forwarded to your Lordship with my Despatch, General, No. 8, of the 8th October last, nor do I understand that any more are at present expected. In the existing state of the labour market, there seems to be no object in importing them, and certainly no profit.

The contracts under which the Portuguese were hired secure them double

the amount of wages that the negro labourer is now receiving; and as on the expiration of these contracts, which were by law limited to one year's duration, the Portuguese will generally fall back to the reduced rate of sixpence per day, I am apprehensive that they may then experience considerable disappointment, and some difficulty, in supporting themselves and families. They appear to be an orderly and well-conducted people, and have, with rare exceptions, given satisfaction to their employers, by whom, I have reason to believe, they have been well taken care of. There is no emigration-agent here, to whom I could apply for specific information on this head, but I have personally visited the estates on which the immigrants are located, and I saw no reason to question their being well treated. The very few complaints which I have received from them, proved on investigation to be unfounded. Diseases, chiefly fever and dysentery, have at times prevailed, and some have, of course, sunk under them; but it cannot, I think, be said that on the whole the climate has proved inimical. As I have stated on a former occasion, they continue to live on terms of amity and good fellowship with the negroes, by whom, however, I understand they are rather looked down upon; which is by no means improbable, for humility is not one of the virtues that can be claimed for the emancipated race, even by their most enthusiastic admirers.

I alluded in my former annual Report to the establishment of a savings'-bank, which your Lordship will perceive, from the annexed report of the actuary, has, to some extent, found favour with the working classes, for whose benefit the institution was more particularly designed. In connexion with the savings'-bank I may mention, that the friendly societies, which have been productive of so much good, continue in beneficial operation, under the guidance of the different Gospel Ministers to whose churches they are respectively attached, and by whom they have been long sedulously fostered and carefully watched over.

Although no prominent measure may be alleged to have distinguished the legislation of the past year, several useful enactments have been passed; the deliberations of the Council and Assembly being guided by that just and liberal spirit which has long characterized their proceedings.

In reference to the agricultural and commercial condition of the colony generally, and to its future prospects, I have little to add to the Report which I had the honour to address to your Lordship on the 26th December last, in forwarding a petition from the Legislative Council and Assembly to the Imperial Parliament, except that I think I have latterly perceived some glimmerings of returning confidence, which have moved but not yet dissipated the thick fog of gloom and despair, and I may say of utter hopelessness, which at that time universally prevailed.

I stated in the Despatch to which I refer, that wages for field-work had been reduced from 1s. 10d. to 8d. and 6d. per day; immediately afterwards they fell still lower, and have since remained stationary at 6d. This, with retrenchments made in other branches of expenditure, will materially diminish the cost of production. The more general introduction of implemental husbandry would also conduce to the same end, but not so largely as when the cost of manual labour stood at former high prices. Although some experienced and successful planters adhere to the old methods of tillage, the advocates of the more modern system are increasing; the economy and superior advantages of which must ultimately secure its general adoption.

In the manufacturing process no substantial change has been made for many years; improvements have from time to time been attempted, but not with encouraging results; and although it has been proved elsewhere, and is here admitted, that both the quantity and quality of the sugar can be enhanced by the aid of chemical science, suitably and practically applied, very few proprietors are now in a position to incur the outlay involved in the purchase and erection of the new and expensive machinery indispensable to the accomplishment of the object in view.

The Hoe and Harrow Company, adverted to in previous communications, has, as I anticipated, been dissolved; and I fear with considerable loss to the shareholders. And I am also concerned to state, that the General Agricultural Society, reorganized, and, as I anxiously hoped, invigorated, in the end of 1846, has not met with that advocacy and support which so valuable an association ought to have commanded.

Vide Annual Reports on the Colonial Blue Books, presented to Parliament by Her Majesty's Command, July, 1847, p. 47.
June 1, 1848.

For Governor Higginson's Report, Dec. 26, 1847, vide Papers ordered by the House of Lords to be printed, June 27, 1848, No. 250, p. 366. Ditto ditto House of Commons, Mar. 14, 1848, No. 167, p. 350.

ANTIGUA.

The issue of the struggle in which the employers of free labour are now engaged, depends so materially upon the cost at which the staples can be brought to market, that it would be interesting if an accurate estimate of the expense could be formed; which is however extremely difficult, the cost of production being affected by so many various contingencies. For instance, the nature of the soil, more fertile or more easily worked on some estates than on others; the uncertainty of the seasons as affecting both the growth of the plant and the saving of the crop, estates here, with few exceptions, being dependent upon wind-mills; the command of continuous labour when most urgently needed, and of capital to employ it in the most economical manner. In addition to these local circumstances, there are other causes which operate in augmenting or diminishing outlay; the rates of freight which more open competition would tend to lower, the charges in the merchant's account sales, which I venture to think are also susceptible of reduction, and the position of the estate, whether free and unembarrassed, or crushed by mortgages and other incumbrances, which latter condition it must be admitted is that of the majority.

The extreme severity of the ordeal to which West India proprietors have been and are still subjected, is undeniable, and cannot be endured without great sacrifices. The prevailing opinion here undoubtedly is, that unless free labour produce be protected, the majority of estates must be abandoned; but I incline to believe that the worst has passed. Although I view the withdrawal of protection as a heavy blow struck at the employers of free labour, and cannot therefore concur in opinion with those who undervalue that boon, I am not prepared to assert that the benefits conferred by it were not unmingled with evil, as rendering the planter more dependent on extraneous aid than on his own exertions and resources. The uncertainty attending its continuance also operated injuriously, tending to unsettle men's minds, and to interfere with the concentration of their energies and means; when their critical position demanded the utmost unity of action, and the most energetic and well-directed measures to secure their safety, and to meet the altered circumstances in which they were about to be placed. A spirit of enterprise and inquiry has certainly been awakened, both in the islands and the mother country, which was not called forth under the protective system. And the paramount necessity of the greatest practicable economy and retrenchment being brought to bear on every branch of expenditure, has now arrested universal attention.

In this island, and I believe I may include the others comprising the general Government, I hear of no well-grounded complaints of difficulty in obtaining labour at the low rate of wages now current; that they can bear no further reduction is admitted by all, and there seems as little reason to suppose that they will be raised again for some time to come. If, in addition to the cost of labour thus diminished by one-half, all shipping restrictions be removed, and sugar and molasses be admitted for consumption in both breweries and distilleries, and the duty on colonial and home manufactured spirits be equalized, and all protection, whether in favour of or against the sugar grower be withdrawn, and immigration facilitated, when and wherever the supply of labour may not equal the demand, I conceive that an opportunity would then present itself of bringing the "*quæstio vexata*" fairly to issue, namely, whether under most favourable circumstances free-labour produce can be profitably maintained, without the aid of a differential duty against that introduced from slave-holding countries.

It would be presumptuous in me to offer a decided opinion upon this most important and intricate question; but having considered the subject with great care and anxious attention, I do not hesitate to record my conviction, that the apprehensions entertained in some quarters of the general abandonment of sugar cultivation is groundless; as well as my belief that, under the Divine blessing, the condition of these valuable possessions of the Crown will gradually improve, and ultimately regain their former prosperity.

It may be said that I am more sanguine than present appearances will warrant, and that I rely with too much confidence on the extreme fertility of the soil, its peculiar adaptation to the culture of the sugar-cane, and other resources now in course of development, or that I place too high a value on the indomitable spirit and perseverance of my fellow-countrymen; this may be so, and will be tested by the result. But in the meanwhile it will be satis-

factory to Her Majesty's Government to be assured, amid the spirit of anarchy and revolt pervading surrounding nations, that whether they are bowed down by adversity or cheered by prosperity, the Sovereign of the powerful empire to which it is their pride to belong, reigns over no more loyal and devoted subjects than the inhabitants of Her colonies in the Charibbean sea.

I have, &c.,
(Signed)

J. M. HIGGINSON.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

ANTIGUA.

Enclosure 1 in No. 14.

Encl. 1 in No. 14.

Saint John's Savings' Bank,
June 1, 1848.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Excellency's information, a statement of the present condition of this institution.

I regret to state that the Bank has not progressed during the last half year in the same ratio as at the commencement; in consequence, no doubt, of the circumstances of the labouring people having undergone such a change as rendered them not only unable to save, but compelled them to draw on their previous savings. The additions to the deposit amount during the last six months have been made chiefly by friendly societies, while the drafts have been almost exclusively those of individual depositors belonging to the industrial classes.

The whole amount deposited from the period at which the Bank commenced its operations, say 22nd March, 1847, to the present date, is 2356*l*, sterling, of which there now remains 1501*l*. 12*s*. 7*d*., to the credit of the following accounts:—

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
140 individuals of the working classes	1018	3	11			
St. Philip's Friendly Society	180	3	8			
St. James' Friendly Society	35	19	8			
Parham Mechanics' Institution	55	0	0			
				1289	7	3
Destitute Strangers' Fund				1	15	1
Mutual Life Assurance Company				210	10	3
				£1501	12	7

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. F. SMYTH, Actuary.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

REVENUE, AMOUNTS, and COMPARATIVE STATEMENT.

	For Year, to 30th Sept., 1846.	From 1st Oct., 1846, to 5th July, 1847.	From 6th July to 5th Oct., 1847.	Aggregate from 1st Oct., 1846, to 5th Oct., 1847.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Record Tax	469 4 3½	170 19 5½	..	170 19 5½	..	298 4 10
Street Tax	488 9 11½	178 10 8½	..	178 10 8½	..	309 19 3
Duty on Liquor Licences	1,345 10 0	858 0 0	306 13 2½	1,164 13 2½	..	180 16 9½
Duty on Sugar Licences	7 10 6	4 10 10½	1 1 6	5 12 4½	..	1 18 1½
Public Fines	1,197 18 7	748 6 8½	2 13 0	750 19 8½	..	446 18 10½
Powder Duty	148 11 4	80 6 10	..	80 6 10	..	68 4 6
Receipts of Foreign Duties from Her Majesty's Customs	5,545 12 10½	3,769 3 5	1,383 2 7	5,152 6 0	..	393 6 10½
Receipts from Harbour Masters	23 7 4	12 10 1	8 8 0	20 18 1	..	2 9 8
Duty on Pedler's Licences	71 10 4	51 6 8	24 8 0	75 14 8	4 4 4	..
Duty on Shooting Licences	64 14 4	5 9 8½	34 0 0	39 9 8½	..	25 4 7½
Arrears of Taxes	58 16 1	57 1 2	..	57 1 2	..	1 14 11
Receipts of Surplus Tonnage, Duty from Her Majesty's Customs	1,595 11 2½	839 14 4½	..	839 14 4½	..	755 16 9½
Tariff Duties	18,281 0 2½	11,791 2 5	4,816 14 8	16,607 17 1	..	1,673 3 1½
Interest Account	481 12 6	72 19 0	..	72 19 0	..	408 13 6
Public Loan	..	3,739 8 7½	3,842 15 6	7,582 4 1½	7,582 4 1½	..
Savings' Banks	..	632 14 2½	446 16 8½	1,079 10 11	1,079 10 11	..
Receipts from Provost Marshal	..	232 6 11	..	232 6 11	232 6 11	..
Governor's Fees, contributed by His Excellency	..	43 13 10	..	43 13 10	43 13 10	..
Cistern Tax	9 18 11	..	..	..	..	9 18 11
Total	29,789 8 5½	23,288 5 0½	10,866 13 2	34,154 18 2½	8,942 0 1½	4,576 10 4½

Remarks.—Although there has been a decrease in the amount of several items, such as the Colonial Tariff Duties, the Imperial Duties, and the Surplus Tonnage Duty from Her Majesty's Customs, &c., the increase shown upon this statement arises from a loan contracted, and from deposits made by the Savings' Bank.

EXPENDITURE, AMOUNTS, and COMPARATIVE STATEMENT.

	For Year to 30th Sept., 1846.	From 1st Oct., 1846, to 5th July, 1847.	From 6th July, to 5th Oct., 1847.	Aggregate from 1st Oct., 1846, to 5th Oct., 1847.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Salaries and fees to public officers . . .	5,534 1 3½	3,825 14 10½	1,224 14 8½	5,050 9 7	..	483 11 8½
Police establishment	4,471 0 8½	3,750 14 4	874 15 6	4,625 9 10	154 9 1½	..
Expense of streets	797 14 2½	350 7 4	..	350 7 4	..	447 6 10½
Expense of buildings	212 0 8½	129 11 1½	6 5 0	135 16 1½	..	76 4 7
Pensions and donations	2,366 17 6	640 15 3	119 19 11	760 15 2	..	1,606 2 4
Highways	4,258 3 10	3,275 15 5	2,058 8 10½	5,334 4 3½	1,076 0 5½	..
Fire engines	673 0 9½	60 0 0	160 0 0	220 0 0	..	453 0 9½
Fort James	334 10 11	244 7 0	88 17 8½	333 4 8½	..	1 6 2½
Fort George	132 0 6	67 10 0	20 0 0	87 10 0	..	44 10 6
Fort Byam	274 15 9	115 6 1½	24 8 10½	139 15 0	..	135 0 9
Fort Johnson's Point	60 0 0	45 0 0	13 1 8	58 1 8	..	1 18 4
Fort Old Road	63 0 0	47 5 0	14 0 0	61 5 0	..	1 15 0
Goat Hill Battery	88 13 7½	61 13 0	16 6 8	77 19 8	..	10 13 11½
Rat Island Signal Staff	95 13 9½	45 0 0	13 6 8	58 6 8	..	37 7 1½
Public printing	188 17 4½	100 2 1½	10 12 0	110 14 1½	..	78 3 3
Parish of St. John	1,840 11 5	1,232 15 9	187 10 0	1,420 5 9	..	420 5 8
Parish of St. Peter	150 7 0	123 8 9	23 12 2½	147 0 11½	..	3 6 0½
Parish of St. George	95 16 6	47 18 3	21 5 11	69 4 2	..	26 12 4
Parish of St. Mary	123 1 6	92 6 1½	27 7 0	119 13 1½	..	3 8 4½
Parish of St. Philip	239 6 0	119 13 0	..	119 13 0	..	119 13 0
Parish of St. Paul	410 5 0	205 2 6	91 3 4	296 5 10	..	113 19 2
Common gaol	1,790 11 4½	1,509 0 0½	456 16 9	1,965 16 9½	175 5 5	..
Books for Register of Deeds	5 8 0	5 0 10½	..	5 0 10½	..	0 7 1½
Books for Clerk of Assembly . . . . .	..	2 14 0	..	2 14 0	2 14 0	..
Endowed school	375 0 0	450 0 0	37 10 0	487 10 0	112 10 0	..
All Saints Chapelry	282 13 1½	295 6 3	87 10 0	382 16 3	100 3 1½	..
Lunatic Asylum	657 7 7½	610 4 11½	164 10 4½	774 15 4	117 7 8½	..
Expenses from earthquake	11,732 3 2	7,730 18 9½	2,060 8 4	9,791 7 1½	..	1,940 16 0½
Expense of lighthouse	29 12 10	25 10 5½	..	25 10 5½	..	4 2 4½
Expense of printing and binding 4th vol. of laws . . . . .	..	107 16 5	..	107 16 5	107 16 5	..
Bounty on Immigration . . . . .	..	46 2 6	659 10 0	705 12 6	705 12 6	..
Expenses for reception of Governor Hig- ginson . . . . .	..	222 10 6½	..	222 10 6½	222 10 6½	..
Drawback duties . . . . .	..	836 8 1½	333 12 4	1,170 0 5½	1,170 0 5½	..
Purchase of Hyndmand's land . . . . .	..	1,125 0 0	..	1,125 0 0	1,125 0 0	..
Cost of iron tanks for Court-house . . . . .	..	743 16 0½	63 9 3	807 5 3½	807 5 3½	..
Public loan . . . . .	..	..	58 8 0	58 8 0	58 8 0	..
Interest account . . . . .	..	..	28 17 3	28 17 3	28 17 3	..
Expenses under Dissenters' Marriage Act	6 9 2	..	..	..	..	6 9 2
Expenses for reception of Lieut.-Governor Cunningham	95 10 6	..	..	..	..	95 10 6
	37,384 14 2½	28,290 14 11½	8,946 8 4½	37,237 3 4	5,964 0 4	6,111 11 2½

Remark.—The trifling decrease exhibited on this statement occurs from the ordinary fluctuations in the amounts of the respective branches.

Encl. 2 in No. 14.

Enclosure 2 in No. 14.

Government House, St. John's,
May 24, 1848.

MY DEAR SIR,

THE Governor requests that you will have the goodness, at your early convenience, to answer the following queries:—

Have any schools connected with the Church of England been discontinued during the past or present year?

Has the attendance at the day-schools been more or less regular than in previous years, and to what do you attribute the increase or decrease of numbers?

Since the reduction of wages, is greater difficulty experienced in exacting payment of tuition fees from parents? &

What effect generally do you conceive that the reduction of wages has had upon the moral and physical condition of the labouring classes?

I have, &c.,
(Signed)

C. H. HIGGINSON,
Private Secretary.

The Venerable Archdeacon Holberton,
Antigua.

A similar letter addressed to the Rev. James Cox, Superintendent of the Wesleyan Mission, and to the Rev. G. W. Westerby, Superintendent of the Moravian Mission.

Antigua, June 5, 1848.

ANSWERS to the GOVERNOR-IN-CHIEF'S INQUIRIES concerning the present State of the SCHOOLS connected with the Church of England and the Condition of the LABOURING PEOPLE.

Q. Have any schools connected with the Church of England been discontinued during the past or present year?—A. Three or four to my knowledge.

Q. Has the attendance at the day schools been more or less regular than in previous years, and to what do you attribute the increase or decrease of numbers?—A. To the Rectory School and National School for boys there has been a small accession in consequence of the discon-

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ANTIGUA.

tinuance of schools in villages in the vicinity of St. John's. But from these schools, and others in the country, some children have been kept away for want of clothes, and others have been sent irregularly for want of food supplied in time for their breakfast or for their lunch, which the children are in the habit of bringing with them to school.

Q. What effect generally do you conceive that the reduction of wages has had upon the mind and physical condition of the labouring classes?—A. Since the reduction of wages there have been less revellings among the people because the means for keeping them up have not been at their command. I am not aware that the physical condition of the people has suffered. They have worked at their provision grounds very industriously, and, if it pleases God to bless the land with rain, they will be enabled by the sale of arrow-root, vegetables, and even canes of their own growing, as well as by the sale of pigs and poultry, to make out with the reduced wages they are at present receiving. If a drought prevailed there is no doubt that the people would suffer much as the poor in England during a severe winter.

(Signed) ROBT. HOLBERTON,
Rector of St. John's, and Archdeacon of Antigua.

MY DEAR SIR,

St. John's, June 1, 1848.

I BEG to acknowledge receipt of your communication of the 24th May, and to submit the following replies to the queries of his Excellency the Governor-General.

1. One school was relinquished during the past year, and one was commenced in another locality.

2. There is considerable irregularity of attendance on the schools. The parents requiring their children sometimes for domestic purposes, and at other times for remunerated labour; and since the reduction of wages this evil has increased.

3. We experience "great difficulty" in obtaining the small weekly payment for tuition, and especially since the people have received such a pittance of compensation for daily labour. And I may add, that the diminished resources of our Missionary Society in England (arising from the pressure of the times), and the consequent diminution of their grant to us for school purposes, will probably lead to the dissolution of many of our schools next year; unless the financial resources of the people are improved, or unless we obtain aid from the Colonial Legislature. And the latter we can hardly hope for, knowing the embarrassed condition of the public Treasury. The reduction in the amount of our people's contributions for the support of the ministry also, has been so distressing, that we have been anticipating the removal of one from the number of our four missionaries now labouring in Antigua, and the withdrawal altogether of the missionary from Montserrat.

4. As to the effect of the diminution of wages on the labouring classes, I am induced to think that their economical savings in past years, and their industry in cultivating their own grounds, and in keeping stock, &c., have generally enabled them to sustain the pressure of this calamity without much physical injury: but I think it is impossible for it to continue without serious evils of every description. The force of religious principle on the religious part of the community has prevented much moral evil, and inspired contentment and patience.

I shall be happy to reply to any other inquiries his Excellency may be pleased to institute.

I have, &c.,

C. H. Higginson, Esq.,
Private Secretary.

(Signed) JAMES COX.

SIR,

June 8, 1848.

YESTERDAY, on my arrival in St. John's from St. Kitts, the Rev. A. Hamilton placed in my hands your letter of the 24th of May last, together with the answers received from our ministers at the various stations in this island to the questions contained in the letter, the substance of which I enclose for the information of his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief.

I should have sent the answers at an early hour of this day, had I not been called into the country on duty.

I have, &c.,

C. H. Higginson, Esq.,
Private Secretary.

(Signed) G. W. WESTERBY,
Superintendent of the Moravian Mission in Antigua.

Answers to the Questions.

1. No schools in connection with this mission have been discontinued.

2. The attendance at the day-schools is much less than usual. We attribute the decrease of numbers to—1st. The inability of many on account of the present low wages to pay the school-fees. 2nd. The sending of children to some kind of work to increase the income of the family.

3. Much greater difficulty is experienced in obtaining the school fees, and the present income of the schools is much less than last year.

4. We have not yet perceived the effects of the reduction of wages on the moral and physical condition of the people, though it is to be feared that if the present state of things continue as at present, its influence upon our people, both in a moral and physical point of view, will be grievously seen and felt before long.

ST. KITTS.

ST. KITTS.

No. 15.

(No. 9.)

No. 15.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HIGGINSON to Earl GREY.

Government House, St. John's,
March 10, 1848.

(Received April 5, 1848.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, in duplicate, the Blue Book of St. Kitts for the year 1847.

I also submit, for your Lordship's information, a copy of the Lieutenant-Governor's despatch which accompanied it.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. M. HIGGINSON.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 15.

(No. 8.)

Enclosure in No. 15.

Government House, St. Christopher's,
March 6, 1848.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book for the year 1847.

I do not discover in its pages anything which calls for any lengthened remark from me.

Your Excellency will observe, that while taking credit for a small balance in our favour of receipts over disbursements, some still outstanding liabilities are admitted. These accruing for the last quarter of the year, and not having been audited until after the commencement of the succeeding one, will, in accordance with the previous practice, fall into the accounts of the current year. The total sum of them will no doubt greatly exceed the usual annual average, in consequence of the financial depression, aggravated by the commercial disasters of the period.

Taking these latter causes into consideration, your Excellency will be gratified, and probably surprised, to see that our imports for the year 1847 have declined, in comparison with those for the year 1846, only in the proportion of one-eighth, while the proceeds of the tax upon our exports give an actual increase (owing, of course, to the abundant crop of sugar) to the extent of a fifth.

The new gaol, situate in the town of Basseterre, is now completed according to the original plan, with the exception of some not essential details. Its main features, as your Excellency is aware, consist of 10 wards, measuring 21 by 12 feet, with six others (intended for solitary confinement), measuring 16 by 8 feet, opening on a central hall. The classification it will admit of will, therefore, be but of a general character. Notwithstanding this, and the incurable defect of a want of means of separate confinement during the night, it is a monument of improvement to which we may, I think, point with just pride.

All the works at the new church for the parish of St. George have been suspended from an early period of the year, but not before the original estimate, as your Excellency will observe, had been considerably exceeded. Roofed in as it is, it must wait a generation of more zealous churchmen, which as it is constructed of greenheart from Demerara, it may possibly survive to see.

The first measure which presents itself, on a retrospect of the legislation of the year, being one which was enacted during the fostering presence of your Excellency in this island, I need only observe, with reference to the Act remodelling the judicial establishment, that while some modifications of it may be found ultimately advisable, all well-informed persons recognize in it an important amelioration of our social institutions.

The Acts respectively for establishing a savings' bank, for preventing trespasses, and regulating the impounding of stock, and for punishing vagrants, may, I hope, be deemed just instances of institutional wants judiciously supplied.

The liberal grant for the year of 600*l.* having been duly administered by the

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Board of Education on the principle announced in Mr. Claxton's Despatch, of the 10th March, 1847, of enforcing a regular proportional payment by each scholar, has, it is to be hoped, been of real service in overcoming the principal obstacle which presents itself to our efforts in this cause, the apathy so unhappily prevalent on this subject among their parents.

The better opinion entertained here would appear to confirm the result deducible from the recorded sums of baptisms and burials as to the almost stationary position of the population of this island. In addition to the carelessness as to infant disease and life which distinguishes the negro, I regret to have to report a further cause of this fact, so anomalous in a country so favourable to the increase of his race, in the increasing disinclination to resort to fitting medical advice for patients in cases of extremity on the part of their relations.

The agriculture of this island is a subject on which, I believe, apart from its present inadequate profits, we may still continue to congratulate ourselves. The great extent to which capital has availed itself of the extended inclinations which distinguish this from the contour of the neighbouring volcanic islands to introduce a system of detailed implemental husbandry has, in addition to its own proper economical returns, been of much use in enabling us to enforce successfully the late inevitable reduction of wages, by proclaiming that manual labour might profitably be dispensed with to an almost unlimited extent.

At the same time it would be unjust, in connexion with this subject, to withhold praise from the general behaviour of the labouring classes during their present reduced remuneration, which every sincere well-wisher of their race must hope to be permanent, as one of the necessary conditions of any further cultivation of the sugar-cane in this island.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

R. J. MACKINTOSH,

Lieut.-Governor.

His Excellency J. M. Higginson, Esq.,
Governor-in-Chief, &c. &c.

MONTSERRAT.

MONTSERRAT.

No. 16.

(No. 15.)

No. 16.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HIGGINSON to Earl GREY.

Government House, St. John's,
March 10, 1848.

(Received April 5, 1848.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, in duplicate, the Blue Book of Montserrat for the year 1847, together with a Report from the President administering the Government, on the present condition and future prospects of that island, which accompanied it.

In my Despatch, No. 72, of the 11th September last, I apprised your Lordship of the disastrous state to which various adverse circumstances had reduced this once flourishing settlement; and I deeply regret to observe that Mr. Baynes' Report, now submitted, is not calculated to convey a more favourable impression than I was myself led to form during my recent sojourn in the island.

A legislative and more intimate union with Antigua would, in my opinion, as I have previously stated, confer essential advantages on Montserrat, and might, perhaps, rescue her from the ruin with which she is threatened; but I have now too much reason to fear that the proposition which has been made by the Legislature of Montserrat to that of Antigua, with a view to effect such an incorporation, will not be entertained by the latter colony.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

J. M. HIGGINSON.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

MONTserrat.

Encl. in No. 16.

Enclosure 1 in No. 16.

REPORT to accompany the ANNUAL BLUE BOOK for 1847.

OWING to absence twice the usual space of time has elapsed since I transmitted my last General Report on the state of this colony. A change for the worse has taken place in every respect.

The accompanying reports from the Stipendiary Magistrate, the Treasurer, the Collector, the Colonial Secretary, the Provost Marshal, and the Loan Commissioners, which I called for in order to assist me in acquiring a thorough insight into the actual condition of the colony since my return, will sufficiently show its present melancholy condition.

I shall begin with referring to that of the Treasurer. The returns of this officer in the Blue Books, how the comparative statement of the revenue for 1846 and 1847 to stand thus:—

Revenue and Ex-
penditure.

—	1846	1847	Decrease.	Increase.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Revenue	3,748 17 7	3,563 3 1½	185 14 5½	. . .
Expenditure . . .	4,061 8 2	3,316 10 1	. . .	217 3 10
Add (not yet audited for 1847) . . .		963 1 11		
For 1847		4,279 12 0		

State of the Trea-
sury.

Thus not only the revenue has fallen off during the last year, but the expenditure has increased, though neither to a great extent. But the Treasurer reports that his accounts under the former head show a decrease in every succeeding year, and that he has no hope of any alteration for the better. He thinks the country will not be in a condition to repay the portion of the loan (3000*l.*) borrowed for the restoration of the public buildings overthrown or injured by the earthquake of 1843. The Loan Commissioners coincide with Mr. Goodall in this opinion; and he speaks positively as to the inability of the island to make good to Her Majesty's Government any deficiency that may take place in the return of the gross sum 23,000*l.*, borrowed for the assistance of the sufferers in general.

The financial resources of the colony consist of:—

Taxation.

- 1st. Duties collected under the Imperial Act 8 and 9 Vict. c. 93.
- 2nd. The Local Tariff.
- 3rd. A tax upon landed property.
- 4th. A tax upon horses, mules, horned cattle, &c.

Defective System
of.

There are no other taxes, not even a liquor licence in force at present. No system of assessment can be more defective than that of the tax on landed property in this island. Land entirely out of cultivation, and which has been so for a long series of years, yielding no return whatever to the owner, is taxed at exactly the same rate as estates in full culture. These abandoned, and at present, for want of capital, unproductive properties, are regularly inserted by name and description in every successive levy Bill, and assessed according to old valuations effected many years since, when they were profitably cultivated, and afforded large returns to the proprietor. Thus cultivated and uncultivated lands, the flourishing sugar estate, the unprofitable wild, even in some instances the barren and inaccessible tops of the mountains, are taxed precisely on the same antiquated schedule of valuations in the same proportion; whilst, to increase the inconsistency, squatters who occupy these lands without molestation or hindrance, having houses and provision grounds *ad libitum* on them, on which an effective tax could easily be levied, are not required to contribute a single penny to the public revenue. This mode of taxation, unprofitable to the revenue, for in many cases no purchasers can be found for these properties when brought to the hammer in default of payment, oppressive to the proprietor, who reaps no profit from them, acts as a direct encouragement to and premium on the withholding of labour from the estates in cultivation.

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This hardship is increased by a clause in the last Levy Bill which reduces the term of five years formally allowed for the redemption of property thus situated, when sold for taxes, to a single twelvemonth. It is a fact that large tracts of fertile land which the embarrassments of the owner have compelled him for a time to refrain from cultivating are generally sold year after year, changing owners every sale from inability to pay the heavy imposts on them for sums not exceeding, sometimes not equalling, the amount of taxes due on them.

I also greatly doubt the wisdom of taxing cattle kept for estate work; it tends to diminish their numbers, and, in consequence, the quantity of manure. This law has had in this island the anomalous effect of reducing the price of butcher's meat twenty-five per cent., accompanied by the advantage of a more regular supply in the market. This is occasioned by the increased number now slaughtered in order to avoid the impost.

Nor do the returns of the collector of the customs afford a more cheering prospect. The imports, which had been increasing from the year 1841 to the date of my proceeding to England in 1846, have greatly fallen off during the last two years, there being a difference in value under this head of not less than 11,261*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.*, or about 42½*l.* per cent. between the years 1845 and 1847. A propitious season produced an unusually abundant crop in 1846, the advantages of which were unhappily greatly more than counterbalanced by the fall of prices, and I regret to say that this year, with the markets still more unfavourable, the crop, owing to the drought which prevailed in the autumn, is likely to be very indifferent.

Customs.
Imports and Ex-
ports.

The returns for the last three years of the value of imports and exports are as follows:—

				£.	s.	d.
1845	.	.	Imports	.	.	26,275 15 2
"	.	.	Exports	.	.	18,925 12 0
1846	.	.	Imports	.	.	17,967 7 0
"	.	.	Exports	.	.	15,976 0 0
1847	.	.	Imports	.	.	15,013 17 0
"	.	.	Exports	.	.	24,121 2 0

I also subjoin a return of the staple produce exported during the same period:—

Years.	Sugar.			Rum.		Molasses.	
	Hhds.	Tns.	Brls.	Puns.	Hhds.	Puns.	Hhds.
1845 . . .	656	171	62	36	1	316	0
1846 . . .	448	150	84	10	0	280	3
1847 . . .	743	232	107	74	4	527	0

I likewise transmit, in order to show the progressive decline of the island, a return of the quantity of produce exported annually since the year 1832, the corresponding amount of imperial duties, and the number and tonnage of ships which have left this island for England yearly during the same period. With the exception of the interval elapsing between 1841 and 1845, during which the agricultural interest rallied considerably, the downward tendency has, with little variation, been uniform, until, from 1608 hogsheads shipped in 1834, the exports of sugar have dwindled to 488 hogsheads in 1846. The number of ships, six, leaving with produce in the former year, has been reduced to one; and I am informed that no vessel is expected this year.

The collector expresses his opinion that the imperial duties, low as they are at present, are not likely to increase, that is, to recover from their existing depression, in consequence of the greatly diminished trade carried on with the foreign islands, and the less frequent arrival of vessels direct from England; for it thus happens that our imports being now almost wholly obtained from the neighbouring British possessions, Antigua, St. Kitts, &c., the imperial duties have been already paid at those ports. Hence this unfortunate island has not only to pay the increased mercantile charges thus incurred on all the articles of its consumption, but is also deprived of the revenue which it ought to receive on them.

Imperial Duties.

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Local Tariff.

The duties collected under the Local Tariff Act have not, as under such circumstances may be imagined, escaped the general depression. They stand thus, and show a gradual decrease of nearly a third :—

	Years.	Imports.			Exports.			Total.		
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
	1845 . . .	1,220	1	10	328	13	1	1,548	14	11
	1846 . . .	875	2	4	224	14	7	1,099	16	11
	1847 . . .	735	10	2	319	7	7	1,054	17	9

Loan.

These duties, being considerably lower than in any of the neighbouring islands, are susceptible of an increase of at least 25 per cent., and the revenue would certainly be much benefited by the transfer of the imperial duties imposed by the 8th and 9th Vict., c. 93, to the island tariff, as permitted by the 9th and 10th Vict., c. 93.

The returns of the Commissioners of the loan will be also found of a most discouraging, and, I regret to say with regard to some of the borrowers, not of a creditable nature; these gentlemen reporting, that “the impression upon their minds, from general observation and current report, is, that in many instances “the money (borrowed) has not been applied in the manner contemplated by “the Act,” and in accordance with the declarations of the borrowers: and they are also of opinion, that, in cases in which the amount lent has not been laid out, as it ought to have been, in the restoration of the damaged buildings, “the value of the property as a security has been materially impaired;” and they declare themselves unable to say, in the present depreciated condition of property, whether the securities in general on which the money has been advanced are sufficient to guarantee the British Government from loss. Finally, they hold out but little prospect of the repayment of the 3000*l.* borrowed for the repairs of the public buildings, and none whatever of any deficiency in the repayment of the gross amount, 23,000*l.*, advanced by Government, being made good, as under the Act it ought to be, from the public treasury of this island.

I am of opinion that the loan, instead of having been a benefit, has been injurious to the general interests of the island. Of the whole amount of 20,000*l.* divided amongst 52 claimants, 15,000*l.* were actually lent to five individuals only; yet the entire revenue of the country is answerable under the Act for the defaults made by these individuals, one of whom has not up to this moment paid a single sixpence of the interest due by him, though a borrower of nearly 6000*l.*, and another who received a sum little short of 5000*l.* has paid the interest due for one year only, though the time fixed for the payment of that for the third year is near at hand.

The island revenue being mortgaged to Government for the repayment of the loan, I trust the doubt expressed by the Commissioners as to the legislature continuing to consent to the renewal of the annual property tax will prove groundless, forming, as it did when they passed the Act, a large portion of the security offered by themselves. As these are the same gentlemen who so anxiously petitioned for assistance in the first instance, and who subsequently so urgently pressed Her Majesty’s Government for the additional loan of 8000*l.*, which was accorded to their prayer, I cannot entertain the supposition, more especially after the indulgence already extended to them in postponing the payment of the first instalment of the principal for three years, that they will take any steps for diminishing the value of a security the sufficiency of which is already very doubtful.

List of Estates.

I transmit also a return, obtained from the island secretary, of all the estates in the colony, whether in cultivation or thrown up, with the names of the owners, and the estimated value at which they are respectively taxed in the annual Levy Bill.

Depreciation of Property.

Of all the documents appended to this Report, the returns of the Provost Marshal set the extraordinary depreciation of property in the strongest light.

The estates of the late Mr. Dudley Semper, which, estimated as all the properties were at the time of their valuation, at scarcely more than half of their value, are rated in the Levy Bill at 27,700*l.*, were lately sold for 295*l.* They were, it is true, bought by the mortgagee, whose claim amounted to

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11,000*l.*; still the circumstance testifies the great depreciation that has taken place.

Mr. Trott's properties, valued at 18,100*l.*, sold for the amount of taxes due on them, 181*l.*: this was by arrangement; but the absence of speculators on so favourable an occasion speaks either a total want of capital or great distrust of the future prospects of the colony.

There have been frequent sales of unincumbered freehold property not much disproportionate. Thus the house of Mr. Brinn, valued at 400*l.*, was first sold in execution for taxes for 3*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.*, and being redeemed by him, was soon after put up again for public sale for default under the Loan Act, and knocked down for 55*l.*

Two houses in Plymouth, belonging to Mr. Venn, of the Council, valued each at 200*l.*, were sold together for 53*l.*

A house in town, rated at 200*l.*, the property of Mr. Dowdy, was sold three times within two years; on the first occasion for 23*l.*, on the second for 63*l.*, and finally for 6*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*

The return of Mr. Osborn, the stipendiary magistrate, is extremely clear and full in all its details. It presents a perspective equally dismal with the foregoing. The ordinary rate of wages is only 5½*d.*, or rather 5*d.*; yet, small as this sum is, there are only 8 estates of the 39 in the island on which the labourers are settled with punctuality. On all the other 31 (23 of which, or three-fourths of the whole number, are, as will be seen in the return, under the charge of a single individual, in his different capacities of owner, lessee, executor, attorney, and receiver) they are paid irregularly, long and uncertain intervals elapsing between the payments. Arrears are due on some for 6, on others 12, and even 18 months. The large amount of 600*l.* is due to his people by one proprietor alone. The truck and barter system has sprung up, and is spreading daily, owing to this delay. The work is very unsatisfactorily performed; indeed, under such circumstances, it is not so surprising that they should afford their employers little labour as that they should work at all for them.

State of Cultivation.

Not less than 17 sugar estates have, during the course of last year, been either thrown up, or the cultivation on them has been greatly reduced. Some have resorted to the metayer plan, the only resource remaining to those who are unable to pay wages. Wretched as this shift is, it is preferable to giving up cultivation altogether, though the proceeds of the proprietor rarely enable him to do more than keep up the stock and maintain the buildings in repair.

Mr. Osborn thus describes the causes of the deterioration which has taken place:—"Want of capital, want of credit, want of mutual confidence between planters and labourers, and want of energy." To which I would add, absenteeism, and the master evil to which I have so often adverted, tenancy at will of houses and provision grounds rent-free as a substitution in part for wages.

It can scarcely be expected that, during a period when all other elements of social polity have suffered so severely, education alone should have escaped from the effects of an evil so widely prevalent. It has not done so; and there has been during the last 18 months a signal falling-off both in the number of schools and the attendance at those still existing. All attempts to persuade the peasantry in general to contribute towards the instruction of their children have hitherto failed. The gradual progress of civilizing influences may indeed in time open their eyes to the benefits and beget the inclination; better times and punctual payment of their wages may increase their means of conferring this blessing on their offspring; but the former of these requisites is not in activity, the latter not in existence, at present.

Education.

I have recently taken the liberty to forward, for the consideration of his Lordship the Secretary for the Colonies, the outline of a scheme for the general combined literal and industrial training of the youth of the labouring classes in these islands, based on a plan which it appears to me may be successfully carried out with little expense in the first instance, and is likely to become ultimately not only self-supporting, but even productive of profit.

The legislative bodies deserve credit for greater diligence of late than usual. Several excellent laws, from which I anticipate great benefit, have been enacted. Amongst them are an Act for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors, a Poor Law, and one authorizing the appointment of town wardens, who are

Legislation.

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invested in some measure with police functions, but who act gratuitously, and cannot without their own consent be retained in office more than three months. I have procured the introduction of a Contract Act, founded on that of British Guiana, but somewhat less stringent. I have every reason to think it will become law. It is greatly wanted, both as regards employer and labourer; and I trust it will be passed in such a form as to meet with the approval of Her Majesty's Government. A Revenue Bill is also pending, framed on nearly the same principle as the one lately rejected by the Council. It has passed both Houses, but has not yet reached me. His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief was desirous of its being made permanent, or at least quinquennial: this most desirable object has not, however, been yet accomplished. In the body of the Bill, indeed, it is provided that it shall be in force for three years; but the party opposed to a duration longer than annual have, in a rider, repealed the triennial, and substituted in its place a clause limiting it to one year: this may lead to fresh discussion on the subject.

Justice.

At the desire of his Excellency the Governor, I have lately reported on the operation of the judicial system recently introduced, against which a formal complaint has been made by the House of Assembly. I have no doubt that his Excellency, assisted by the new Chief Justice, will find the means of obviating the inconveniences pointed out as affecting the ordinary Courts of Law. But I still retain the opinion expressed in my annual Report for the year 1845, that the clauses of the Act relating to the Court of Chancery, superseding the functions of the Chancellor, and authorizing the appointment of a Vice-Chancellor, necessarily not a resident in the island, and whose presence cannot be obtained, however urgent the emergency, when required, are impracticable, and should be repealed.

Military Defence.

An inclination is manifested by several members of the Legislature to throw up Fort Barrington, on the plea of the expense of keeping it up, though it does not exceed the annual average of 65*l*. As this is the only military work in the island, and the sole defence of the town and roadstead, which without it would, in the event of a war, be at the mercy of any armed privateer that might choose to cannonade the place, should this proposal be carried into effect they may soon have cause to repent their economy, and would in such case no doubt call on the mother country to assist them in restoring so necessary a defence, ruined by their own improvidence. I trust Her Majesty's Government will approve of my using my best endeavours to obviate such a contingency.

The existing distress of these colonies is here entirely attributed to, and if we consider its rapid supervention is without doubt chiefly provenient from, the depressed state of the markets, and is so generally and overwhelmingly experienced that the continued culture of these fertile regions as sugar-growing countries is doubtful, unless it can now be proved that they contain intrinsically, and are in a state to avail themselves of them, elements of sufficient endurance to enable them to bear up, at least for the present, against the immense differential expense to which they are subjected in the cultivation and manufacture of sugar when compared with that produced by the labour of slaves.

The great desideratum is to point out and to promote the development of all resources the proper application of which may alleviate the burden pressing on the British planter, at least to such extent as to enable him to obtain a living from and carry on the cultivation of his property at a minimum profit, until some change (and one is betokened, by manifest signs, not to be far distant), shall take place between the proprietor and labourer in slave-holding countries. There are many reasons for believing such an event at hand.

Amongst these may be reckoned the increase of more liberal and Christian notions on this head on the part of the master; more ardent hope of and stronger aspirations for freedom on that of the slave; the late immediate Swedish and prospective Danish emancipation; the efforts now made in France, Holland, and even in the United States; a servile insurrection, an event every day apprehended in the Spanish colonies; finally, a war between England and any one of the slave-holding states, an occurrence certainly within the bounds of probability.

Some of these influences are already gradually changing, the incidence of others may more speedily alter, existing relations, reverse the condition of our own and foreign colonies, and place the British possessions in the position now occupied by Brazil, Cuba, Porto Rico, &c., of being able to sell their sugar at

the cheapest rate in the markets of the world. This advantage once obtained would be enjoyed by us for a considerable time; that is, until the emancipated populations of the foreign colonies have gone through the ordeal we have already sustained, if not without detriment it is to be hoped without utter ruin. When at length our rivals subside again into order and industry, the price of labour being once equalized, free trade will preserve the balance, and the chief evil to be apprehended by the planter will be over-production.

These expectations are reasonable; but the opinion precipitately formed, and still pertinaciously insisted on by a large portion of the Anti-Slavery Society, that the cost of free is not necessarily more than that of slave labour, and that the former, in the present state of the West Indies, can compete with the latter, is a fallacy, the prevalence of which, by inculcating false principles and inducing action on incorrect data, has gone near to ruin these islands, and will certainly effect that undesirable end if persisted in.

Dr. Davy, of Barbados, in his ingenious exposition of the benefits of free trade, maintains a fallacy correlative with the foregoing, when he asserts that the price of sugar can be equalized in the British and foreign colonies by the operation of free trade alone. He loses sight in his calculation of the different rates of production in free and slave communities, and entirely forgets that if the latter could furnish a sufficient quantity of sugar to supply all the markets in the world, under the realization of which hypothesis only the equalization he anticipates would take place, the higher price of labour, and the consequent want of a market, would effectually extinguish the cultivation of sugar in Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad, and the other British colonies, which would have to import their supplies of that article from Brazil, Porto Rico, and Cuba.

If, indeed, the abolition of slavery form a constituent principle in Dr. Davy's reasoning, it may be observed that such an event, however fervently we may desire it, and whatever effect may in time be produced by the many influences now at work, must at the present moment, in reason, rather be hoped as a prospective contingency than calculated on as an immediate probability.

With regard to the simple fact of comparative cost, the labour of the slave has ever hitherto been, and it is to be feared will continue, in despite of every exertion, management, and improvement, to be greatly less than that of the freeman, and until the population of the larger and less peopled of our islands shall be at least quadrupled, that is, until population shall encroach on subsistence to the degree that it does in India and China, in which countries a few handfuls of rice are considered as an equivalent remuneration for a day's labour, —until, in fact, the wages of the free labourer shall be reduced to a par with the necessary subsistence of the slave.

To stock an estate with slaves in the first instance may require a large outlay; but once established, the cost of keeping them is very small. They feed themselves, require little clothing, and kind treatment will keep up their number by natural increase. How little the support of the late slave cost his master even in our colonies may be collected from the fact, that when serving in Jamaica complaints were on different occasions preferred against me, to Lord Sligo and Sir Lionel Smith, for refusing to award less than 1*l.* sterling as an annual compensation for all the supplies allowed by law to the slave and continued to the apprentice, which in many instances had been neglected by the master for years together. These supplies were limited to a few yards of baize and of a coarse stuff called Osnaburgh. The occasional distributions of salt fish were entirely dependent on the will of the owner. They were, however, in general regularly served out on most of the sugar estates. These indulgences, as they were called, in order to distinguish them from the allowances provided for by law, cost the proprietor about 4*d.* per week, or 17*s.* 4*d.* per annum; a dollar yearly was paid for each head to the medical attendant, and the care of the sick in hospitals involved some light extra expense; but the whole outlay for the slave in Jamaica, when provided with provision grounds, did not exceed 2*l.* It is to be observed that the grounds cultivated by the slaves for their subsistence cost the owner nothing immediately out of pocket, nor eventually, except the half-day's labour (the value of which may be fairly estimated at 1*s.*) allowed for working them. They were uniformly situated on the sides of uncleared mountains, in deep ravines or other spots, fertile indeed, but which could be put to no other use. Jobbing gangs sometimes, and town domestics usually, neither class of whom had in general grounds

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allowed to them, received something more than 1s.; but the great mass of the prædial population did not each, at a high estimate, stand in their owners more than 4l. 12s. annually. There is no reason whatever for supposing that the Spanish, French, Brazilian, or United States slave-holder is at all more liberal at present than the English owner was during slavery. It is to be feared that the reverse is the case. Thirty per cent. also, at least, must be deducted in consideration of the difference in price between British and foreign colonies, when applying a scale for computing the expense of the present slave-master.

It is not, under the enormous disparity of cost, easy to conceive how the employer of free labour in British Guiana and Trinidad, who pay each able-bodied workman at the rate of 25l. per annum, can profitably compete with the slave owner of Cuba and Porto Rico. Even in the Leeward Island government, in which labour is greatly lower in price than in Jamaica and the two colonies just mentioned, the difference is still immense. In this island, in which I believe wages have long been below the rates of other colonies, being only 5½d. a day, or 2s. 2d. for a week of five days, that is, 6l. 3s. per annum, together with the advantage of provision grounds and medical attendance, we are still far from being in a condition, under existing practice and management, of being able to compete with slave colonies. If we are *proximi*, it is still "*longo intervallo*." For it is a fact, of which in common with every other person in the colony I am cognizant, that the labourer does not for his 5½d. afford his employer half a day's honest labour. His real cost must therefore be estimated at more than double that sum to the proprietor, and indeed he is always actually paid at that rate when working by the piece. The absurd custom of computing a day's labour, not by quantity and time corresponding with and proportioned to each other, but preposterously permitting it to be regulated by the idle or capricious habits of the labourer to such a degree that two and even three days' work can be and is often performed in one, is not peculiar to this island, but prevails throughout these colonies. This novel and extremely ingenious mode of suffering oneself to be cheated is, I have reason to believe, purely of West India origin. It can scarcely be doubted that it is one of the co-operating causes of their decline. I have endeavoured to convince the proprietary body of the ruinous effects of, and to suggest some obvious means of overthrowing this practical paradox before it takes too deep a root to be any longer eradicable, and three or four hours become fixed as the legal standard for the measure of day in Montserrat.

If there is not as yet reason for actual despair as regards the future, there is absolute necessity for perseverance, exertion, and forethought to struggle with success under the pressure of existing difficulties. Every resource that industry, ingenuity, and capital can command or render available must be employed; and after all every effort that can be made may prove fruitless without the assistance of Government. I have endeavoured in this little island to perform what I conceived my duty, by suggesting to the legislative bodies, in my address, a printed copy of which (in order to prevent this report from extending to inconvenient length) I enclose, certain measures of easy, practical, unexpensive application, which appear to me, with reference to the peculiar state of the colony, calculated to remedy or alleviate at least a portion of this evil under which it labours in this trying crisis. I much fear, however, that the long arrears due to the labourers by some of their employers, extending to 6, 12, and even 18 months, will act as a formidable obstacle to the reforms recommended by me. Proprietors may find it difficult to effect any change of importance, however necessary, and calculated ultimately to benefit both parties, which may at first be unpalatable to the labourers, who are their creditors to so large an amount.

(Signed)
Government House, Montserrat.

EDWARD DACRES BAYNES,
President.

REPORT from the STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATE.

SIR,

December 14, 1847.

I HAVE the honour, in compliance with your Honour's directions, herewith to forward a return under the several heads required in your Honour's official communication of the 30th ultimo, together with such information as appeared to me analogous to the purport of the queries transmitted.

I have, &c.,

His Honour the President
administering the Government,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) JOHN OSBORN,
Stipendiary Magistrate.

1. What is the average rate of wages in this island at present?—The average rate of wages is 1s. currency, or 5½d. sterling. On some few estates this sum is paid for a task, which is fallaciously supposed to be equal to one day's labour. In most cases labourers perform two tasks, and in rare instances three tasks per day; but this system is discouraged by planters, and will eventually fall into disuse.

2. Maximum and minimum of wages, with names of estates?—Two bitts, or 8d. sterling per day, are paid to labourers employed on the estate of G. S. Martin, Esq., called Broderick's. One bitt, or 4d. per day, is paid to labourers employed on the estate of Sir T. Neave, Bart., called Palmetto Point.

3. Whether labourers are punctually paid, and at what periods?—The labourers in this island are most irregularly and unsatisfactorily paid; payment of wages is withheld from one month to six and twelve months and eighteen months and upwards. In one instance the employer, who was executor and trustee of several estates, has recently died, leaving unpaid the wages of labourers, some of which have been overdue for 71 weeks. The reputed insolvency of this party renders hopeless all attempts to recover the amount due to the labourers. The estates are heavily burdened with a prior mortgage, far exceeding their value. The evils of irregular payments paralyze the whole system. It is difficult, nay, almost impossible, for the ignorant labourers to compute with accuracy the amount due to them for periods extending over 60 or 70 weeks. The pay list is kept by the manager, and the only proof of their demand is in the hands of the employer. Frequent complaints of unfair deductions are made, and the labourer is destitute of any evidence to assert his rights. Whether fraudulent abatements be made or not, still this pernicious system is open to such imputations. In case of suing their employer they have no means of proof, nor any power to compel its production in a court of law; they are, therefore, to a great extent, at the mercy of their employer. Again, supposing the labourer to be in a condition to sue for wages in the higher courts, the expense of which amounts to a prohibition, still they could reap no fruit from an execution at law against their employer, for in the vast majority of cases the proprietors have obtained a loan from Government, which loan takes priority of all executions at the suit of the subject. In some instances, if even the obstacle of the prior lien of the Crown upon the estates were removed, the property is so encumbered by prior judgments and executions at the suit of the subject that any attempt to recover would be nugatory on the part of the labourers.

6. Greatest space of time for which arrears are due?—Eighteen months. The largest amount due at one time to the labourers was 600l. sterling, by one proprietor.

7. What effect irregular payments has already produced and still is producing on labour?—The first effect produced by non-payment of wages was extensive emigration from hence to Trinidad, which removed from the island the major part of the young and robust population, very few of whom have found their way back again. In my return for the half year ending 31st December, 1846, which was the first return made by me after my arrival here, I made the following remarks:—"The wages of labourers in this island, with a very few exceptions, are most irregularly paid; instances are not uncommon where labourers are kept out of their wages for six, twelve, eighteen months, and in some cases for two years. The prevalence of squatting and disinclination to labour is to be ascribed to this cause; for planters who owe heavy arrears are hardly in a position to resist encroachments on the part of labourers who are their creditors. Decrease and irregularity of labour are also traced to the same cause; for the labourer who cultivates three or four acres must devote his time to his own land, the produce of which renders him independent of precarious wages." These observations I am enabled fully to confirm, and to state that these evils are on the increase rather than the decrease. When partial payments are made to labourers of large amounts, on account of arrears of wages, they cease to labour, and commence to traffic as hucksters and petty dealers in salted provisions, &c. Again; where, from inability to procure money in payment of their wages, the labourers consent to accept American meal and salt provisions, they likewise are, in some degree, compelled to become hucksters to get rid of these provisions. These provisions, I regret to say, are supplied to the labourers at a ruinous price; but they have no alternative; they must submit to the sacrifice, or get nothing at all. By these means the pernicious system of barter and truck, prohibited by law in England, is submitted here for money payments. When, again, labourers do receive large instalments of their wages, they necessarily become disinclined to labour, and vast numbers spend their time in idleness or debauchery. Besides all this, the insecurity of payment, the inability of recovering their wages, produced a determination not to labour; for, in the phrase used by the negroes, "they won't work for

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what they can't see." The want of circulation of money checks commerce, and the merchants generally complain that many respectable and honest labourers are largely indebted to them, and although perfectly willing are unable to pay their debts.

8. Whether the labourers when irregularly paid continue to afford a profitable return of labour for the wages so paid?—The foregoing remarks will have sufficiently led to the obvious conclusion, that work performed under such circumstances must be feebly and unsatisfactorily done. The labourers, in most cases, perform as little as they can; and the planter is compelled to put up with such work as is performed. The return, consequently, is not profitable, nor can it be so.

9. What are the prospects of the year 1848?—From the best information I can collect, the crop will not exceed 600 hogsheads. By reason of the general insolvency, which is prevalent here, the receipts under the tariff have diminished to an alarming degree. The only vessel which annually brought stores and merchandize has ceased to trade hither; and the receipts under the tariff, which were formerly comparatively lucrative at this season of the year, are at present merely nominal.

10. What estates, if any, have been thrown out, or have been greatly reduced in cultivation during the past year; causes of such deterioration, if known?—Delvin's, German's Bay, Streatham's, Ryley's, Weeks', Hermitage, Brade's, Baizey's, Look-out, Bransby's, Gerrald's, Farm, Waterwork, Paradise, Symes and Lee's, Sweeney's, upon all these estates cultivation is very much diminished; on some it has almost disappeared, and on most cultivation has only been kept up at all by means of working the estates for halves with the labourer. This latter system is conducted in a most slovenly and inefficient manner, neither party seeming to take that interest, or to manifest that degree of energy, which alone can insure successful cultivation.

11. Causes of deterioration, if known to you?—The obvious causes seem to be, want of capital, want of credit to procure capital, want of mutual confidence between planter and labourer, and want of energy.

12. Estates managed by attorneys for non-resident proprietors?—Are Delvin's, Brade's, Baizey's, Look-out, Blake's, Carr's Bay, Gerrald's, Dagenham, Webb's, Broderick's, White's, Tar River, Galway's, Hermitage, German's Bay, Streatham's, Ryley's, Weeks', Roache's, Tuit's, Trant's, Bethel's, Harris's.

13. Estates managed by resident proprietors?—

Richmond and Grove	.	.	.	.	.	by Lessee.
Ffryes	.	.	.	.	.	Ditto.
Bransby's	.	.	.	.	.	No. 1. Proprietor.
Belham's	.	.	.	.	.	Lessee.
Old Road	.	.	.	.	.	Ditto.
Needsmust	.	.	.	.	.	Ditto.
Sweeney's	.	.	.	.	.	No. 2. Proprietor.
Parsons	.	.	.	.	.	No. 3. Ditto.
Reed's Hill	.	.	.	.	.	Lessee.
Amersham	.	.	.	.	.	Ditto.
Farm	.	.	.	.	.	No. 4. Proprietor.
Paradise	.	.	.	.	.	No. 5. Ditto.
Symes	.	.	.	.	.
Lees	.	.	.	.	.
Waterwork	.	.	.	.	.	No. 6. Ditto.
Gage's	.	.	.	.	.	Lessee.

No. 14. Whether you consider the management by attorneys less advantageous and profitable than that by actual proprietors?—One prominent cause of the former prosperity of these colonies was the residence of proprietors; there can be no doubt that the actual residence of proprietors materially contributes to the prosperity of a colony, the same causes arising from absenteeism, which weigh down Ireland, affects the colonies generally.

(Signed) JOHN OSBORN,
Stipendiary Magistrate.

Encl. 3 in No. 16.

Enclosure 3 in No. 16.

REPORT of the TREASURER.

1. Of the actual available resources of the colony, as far as you are acquainted with them, of the present and following year?—The resources of the colony consist, 1st, of duties collected under the Imperial Act 8th and 9th Victoria; 2nd, of the Tariff; 3rd, of a tax upon horses, mules, horned cattle, &c.; 4th, of a tax upon landed property.

2. The sources from which the above means are derivable?—The amount of duties collected under the 8th and 9th Victoria fluctuates. In consequence of the stagnation of trade, importations into this island direct from the place of production or foreign colonies rarely occur, and thus almost all the duties are paid, not into the treasury here, where the consumption takes place, but at the ports from whence the exportation is made, sometimes at Barbadoes, but more frequently at St. Kitts or Antigua, where our supplies of articles dutiable under this Act are chiefly obtained. Parties importing might certainly take such goods out of bond at the port of exportation, but they find it more convenient (generally, it is presumed, for want of capital) to purchase upon credit from the merchant's store, the duty in such cases having

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been previously paid. As no shipping from England is expected to trade here in the ensuing year, importations direct from that quarter will cease altogether. Goods from England for this island will in future be shipped to some neighbouring colony, and thus an increased reduction in the amount of duty collected under this Act must take place. It ought to have been observed, that the revenue paid over to the Treasury under this Act shows a decrease in the returns of every succeeding year. The amount of tariff, being dependent upon exports and imports, fluctuates, and has latterly considerably diminished. The circumstances of the colony will not permit me to indulge a hope of any improvement in the revenue produced by this Act. The tax upon horses, horned cattle, mules, &c., was passed for three years, and will expire in the ensuing year. As the amount of revenue raised under the foregoing Acts is not equal to the expenditure of the colony, a tax upon landed property is raised by an Act passed annually to make good the deficiency; but a Bill is now in progress before the House of Assembly, renewing, with certain modifications, the tax upon horses, horned cattle, mules, &c., and consolidating it, together with the other Colonial Revenue Acts, for a period of five years. The property tax is raised upon a fictitious and arbitrary estimate of the supposed value, for the sole purpose of raising a revenue. If the assessments were fairly made, as in other countries, upon the actual value of property, the revenue arising from this tax would be reduced to one-third of its present amount.

3. What means actually exist for holding out a reasonable hope that the portion of the loan borrowed by the public will be repaid?—Unless some improvement in the condition of the colony take place, the prospect of maintaining the existing income is uncertain, nor are there at present any other resources within it to be considered proper objects of taxation. No reasonable hope can therefore be held out that the portion of the loan borrowed by the public will be repaid with the requisite punctuality, although I will not venture so far as to assert that it will never be repaid. The colony, it is admitted, possesses a favourable climate and fertile soil, beside the advantage of a population sufficient for the purposes of cultivation. With these elements of prosperity, assisted by the application of capital, industry, and intelligence, there would be no doubt as to the capability of the colony to make good every engagement with respect to the loan due to Her Majesty's Government, and these considerations induce a hope that such will eventually prove to be the case.

4. Whether any interest be due by the public of this colony to the Crown on such loan?—The interest due by the public of this colony to the Crown has been paid; but it must be noticed that the money appropriated to make this payment formed no part of the revenue, consisting of a balance of the 3000*l.* sterling reserved for the use of the public, and intended as a fund for the repairs of buildings, roads, &c., but in the absence of other means was applied to the purpose above mentioned.

5. The date of its accruing?—The 1st of August in every year.

6. What steps have been taken to secure it?—The Loan Act makes it the first lien upon the revenue.

7. The probable future ability of the public revenue to repay any probable deficiency in the general loan of 23,000*l.* sterling, for which the public revenue is security to Government?—The revenue of the colony is at present barely adequate to meet its expenditure, and I can discover no means of increasing it. Some of the existing sources of revenue are already described to be failing, consequently no probability appears of any deficiency in the general loan of 23,000*l.* being made good from the revenue. It is, however, to be hoped that the parties borrowing will not fail to meet their engagements.

8. Amount of interest still due, and by whom?—The Commissioners not having furnished my office with the necessary information with reference to this query, I am not in a position to answer it.

9. Amount of taxes due at present to the public?—770*l.* 2*s.* 4½*d.* currency.

10. Dates on which they became due?—The property tax payable on the 1st of July last; the cattle tax payable on the 10th of August last.

(Signed)

RICHARD S. GOODALL, Treasurer.

December 20, 1847.

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Enclosure 4 in No. 16.

Encl. 4 in No. 16.

A RETURN showing the Quantity of SUGAR, RUM, and MOLASSES Exported Annually since the Year 1832, with the Value of the same; also the Annual Amount of Imperial Duties received during the same Period; and the Number of Ships leaving this Island for Great Britain with Produce, with the Amount of their Tonnage, from the Year 1832 to 1846.

Year.	Sugar.			Rum.		Molasses.		Value in Sterling of foregoing.			Amount of Imperial Duties.			Ships leaving with Produce for Great Britain.	
	Hhds.	Tns.	Brls.	Puns.	Hhds.	Puns.	Hhds.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	No.	Tons.
1832	1,288	17	627	640	17	289	2	32,838	0	0	297	8	4	4	1,062
1833	955	45	167	471	0	478	2	25,128	0	0	153	11	4	3	814
1834	1,608	115	386	613	27	696	3	41,512	0	0	271	12	1	6	1,596
1835	803	60	20	312	2	268	1	19,931	0	0	292	18	3	4	1,117
1836	794	59	24	168	0	332	0	19,198	0	0	275	7	6	4	974
1837	507	28	34	53	2	278	2	12,224	0	0	215	1	8	2	593
1838	1,290	200	54	211	48	772	0	33,205	0	0	335	9	3	4	527
1839	727	160	50	196	44	479	2	20,274	0	0	338	0	6	3	840
1840	825	287	7	209	37	392	0	22,713	0	0	390	1	3	3	797
1841	770	259	5	77	17	539	0	21,203	0	0	690	0	9	3	783
1842	928	323	112	103	19	642	20	25,985	0	0	358	9	9	4	803
1843	619	201	103	48	1	461	3	17,149	0	0	601	11	10	2	621
1844	875	296	248	60	0	755	4	24,977	0	0	330	4	6	3	1,012
1845	656	171	62	36	1	316	0	16,722	0	0	469	4	5	2	672
1846	488	150	84	10	0	280	3	11,854	0	0	272	12	3	1	281

ANSWERS to the QUERIES contained in the Private Secretary's Letter, dated the 27th November.

1. The island tariff duties are generally lower in Montserrat than in the neighbouring colonies.
 2. They are, in my opinion, susceptible of an increase, on an average, of at least 26 per centum.
 3. The imperial duties collected in this colony, although at present exceedingly low, are, I think, not likely to increase. On the contrary, in consequence of the want of capital and credit in the island, I imagine they are more likely to fall off.
- The trade also between this and the foreign islands has of late materially diminished; the consequence is, that all imports being from the neighbouring British islands, in most if not all cases the imperial duties have been already paid at the ports from whence those imports arrive.

(Signed) ROBERT SAUNDERS, Collector.

Port of Plymouth, Montserrat.

Encl. 5 in No. 16.

Enclosure 5 in No. 16.

RETURN of the NAMES of all PERSONS owning or possessing FREEHOLDS in the Town of PLYMOUTH, together with the Estimated Value of such Properties, according to the Levy Bill of 1846.

NOTE.—It is impracticable to arrive at a fair statement of the actual ownership of all the properties, or the tenures upon which they are held by other persons, in consequence of the intricate settlements and trusts which attach to freeholds in the town of Plymouth.

Names of Owners or Possessors.	Value in Currency.	Names of Owners or Possessors.	Value in Currency.
	£.		£.
Samuel L. Irish	1,200	Mary Martin	250
John H. Brinn	500	Estate of Frances Skerritt, deceased .	50
Morgan Harris	200	Richard Chambers	500
David Sydney	200	Ann Ryan	300
Estate, Richard H. Dyett, deceased .	1,000	Samuel Irish	600
Charlotte Chalmers	400	Mary O'Brien	600
Henry Dyett	750	Rebecca Wheatland	350
John P. Trott	1,000	Estate, Michael Furlonge, deceased .	800
Charles Venn	400	Peter Gibbons	600
Francis Burke	800	Eliza Harper	400
Henry Connell	400	Patrick Burns	1,000
Sarah Ryan	300	Richard S. Goodall	750
Heirs of Charles Chambers, deceased	300	Estate, Edward Irish, deceased . .	300
Joseph Lindesay	200	Charlotte Chalmers	200

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Return of the Names of all Persons owning or possessing Freeholds in the Town of Plymouth,
&c.—continued.

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Names of Owners or Possessors.	Value in Currency.	Names of Owners or Possessors.	Value in Currency.
Thomas and Sophia Greer	£. 600	Charles Venn	200
Executors of George Wyke, deceased	300	Augustus Allen	200
Edward Andain	200	Estate, Robert Dyett, deceased	100
Barbara Brownbill	300	Richard and William Dyett and Sister	500
Margaret Sambo	200	Lucy Hill and Children	225
Susannah Dyett	400	Paul Bonchard, deceased	250
Estate, Christiana Brown, deceased	100	Sarah and Frances Dubery	500
Henry Blake	300	James Delvin	200
Martha M. Allen	150	Thomas Pond	100
Mary Alice Thwaites	300	Misses Hamilton	200
Nathaniel W. Irish	200	Eliza Dubery	250
Grant Stephenson	200	John P. Trott	200
Eliza Irish	100	Estate of George Wyke, deceased	300
Thomas Dyett	400	Venus Wyke	100
John and Anthony Dowdy	200	Martin Ryan	300
Thomas Harper (2)	150	Mary Meade	50
John Simpson	300	James Venn	200
Peter Irish	300	Heirs of Eleanor Skerrit, deceased	200
William A. Irish	50	Estate, Henry Irish, deceased	400
Estate, Harriet Chalmers, deceased	100	Penda Irish and Children	100
Sarah Irish	100	George Allers	50
Ann Allen	500	Christopher Saunders	100
Richard Piper	250	Estate, John Ryan, deceased	50
John Allen	300	John H. Brinn	400
Estate, Ann Sweeny, deceased	150	Peter Gibbons	50
John Nelson Collins	150	Estate, Robert Dyett, deceased	100
John Rodney Allen	150	Eliza Harper	50
J. P. Trott and T. H. Percy	150	Lucy and Mary MacNamara	100
Jesse Thwaites	500	Estate, Dudley Semper, deceased	200
Susannah Duberry	300	Philip Percy	50
Estate, Eleanor Cannonier, deceased	100	Eliza Furlonge and others	600
Estate, William Shoy, deceased	600	Frederick Cassell	100
Mary Chambers and Children	600	Samuel Ffrye	50
Mary Alice Thwaites	600	James Harris	100
James Wyke	220	Ellen Patrick	100
Ann Meade	100	James F. Daley	200
Estate, George Wyke, deceased	50	John Dyer	50
John Dyer	200	Joseph Dyer	50
Samuel L. Irish	300	William Roach	200
Octavia Irish	50	Alexander Willock	100
Edward Andain	100	James Quaw	200
James Delvin	200	Queely Shiell (3)	1,150
Mary Meade	300	G. S. Martin and F. Shand	600
John P. Trott	500	Richard Chambers (2 lots)	500
Mary O'Gara Price	150	Mary Chambers and Children	600
Samuel Irish	150	Lucy M'Namara	200
Peggy Shoy	25	James Meade	800
Edward Miller	600	Jane Allen	50
John Dobridge	200	John P. Trott	900
John F. Kirwan	400	James Howson	150
Heirs of Dudley Semper, deceased	1,000	Estate, Dominick Trant, deceased	50
Henry Blake	50	Estate, Dudley Semper, deceased (3)	1,500
Joseph Allen	300	Polydore Allen	50
Mary Loving and Sisters	600	Mary Chambers and others	100
Julius Allen	300		
Sally Trant	100		
		Total value	£ 44,500

The valuation of the foregoing properties, like the sugar and stock estates, is very erroneous, being in many instances much above their worth.

Certified,
(Signed) HENRY LOVING, Colonial Secretary.

Enclosure 6 in No. 16.

RETURN of all SUGAR and STOCK ESTATES in the Island of Montserrat, together with their Estimated Value, according to the Annual Land Tax Bill; the Name of the Owner, and of the Party who is in possession where the Owner is not, and the right by which such Party holds possession; and a Return of all smaller Possessions for the Growth of Provisions, together with their Value and the Name of the Owner.

NOTE.—The sugar estates are marked with an asterisk (*).

Name of Estate.	Value in Currency.	Name of Owner.	Party in possession, where the Owner is not.	Right by which Party holds possession.
Valentine's Gut	£250	Augustus Daly.		
Rendezvous	1,500	Sir T. Neave, Bart. . . .	Charles Venn . . .	Attorney.
*Blake's	2,000	John P. Trott.		
Silver Hill	500	Nathaniel B. Daly's Estate.		
Thatched Valley	150	John H. Brinn.		
Hell Gate	350	The same.		
Brinn's Gut	250	The same.		
Drummond's	500	Sir T. Neave, Bart. . . .	Charles Venn . . .	Attorney.
Old Northward	1,000	Richard Locker.		
*Gerrald's	7,000	Devises of J. Gerrald . .	William Shiell . . .	Executor.
Sweeny's	750	Peter Gibbons.		
*Barzey's	6,000	John P. Trott.		
*Folly and Little Carr's Bay	8,000	The same.		
Bank's	750	Martha Miller.		
Baker Hill	1,000	Patrick Sweeny.		
Fogerty's	800	Devises of G. Chalmers.		
Virgin Islands	250	Estate of J. Lindesay.		
Underwood's	100	John P. Trott.		
Ponds	250	Chrisp Molineux.		
Lawyer's	2,500	Francis Burke.		
Dolly's	1,000	Devises of W. Dolly.		
*Needsmust	8,000	Mrs. Ann Jeffers	William Shiell . . .	Attorney.
Hope	500	John H. Harper	J. Dobridge and T. Percy.	Attorneys.
Duberry's	1,500	Edward Kensington . . .	William Shiell . . .	Lessee.
Frith's	500	Heirs of Henry Blake.		
*Old Road	7,000	George St. Loo Kirwan . .	William Shiell . . .	Lessee.
*Water Work	7,000	John F. Kirwan.		
*Tar River	6,000	G. S. Martin and F. Shand .	Augustus V. Drury .	Attorney.
*White's	6,000	The same	The same	The same.
*Hermitage	10,000	Heirs of Dudley Semper .	William Shiell . . .	Receiver in Chancery.
*Paradise	5,000	William D. Furlonge.		
Molineux	5,000	J. H. Harper	John Dobridge . . .	Attorney.
Cedar Gut	500	William D. Furlonge.		
New Windward	500	John F. Kirwan.		
*Streatham's and Riley's	7,000	Heirs of Dudley Semper .	William Shiell . . .	Receiver in Chancery.
*Tuite's, Bethel, and Harris's	20,000	Queely Shiell	The same	Attorney.
*Farm	8,000	John and M. Kirwan.		
*Trant's and Locust Valley	7,900	Dominick Trant, deceased .	William Shiell . . .	Executor.
*Farrell's	10,000	Edward Kensington . . .	Edmond Semper . . .	Lessee.
Bugby Ho'e and Silcott's .	2,000	The same	The same	Lessee of Bugby Hole.
*German's Bay	3,500	Heirs of Dudley Semper .	William Shiell . . .	Receiver in Chancery.
Morris's	1,000	William Shiell.		
Bushy Park	750	Alfred Pynsent	Charles Venn . . .	Attorney.
O'Gara's	200	John P. Trott.		
Power's	200	Queely Shiell	William Shiell . . .	Attorney.
Edmond Semper's Cove	1,000	The same	The same	The same.
Dudley Semper's Cove	1,000	Heirs of Dudley Semper .	The same	Receiver in Chancery.
*Galway's	7,000	G. S. Martin and F. Shand .	Augustus V. Drury .	Attorney.
*Roache's	12,000	Sir T. Neave, Bart. . . .	Charles Venn	The same.
Fergus Mountain	2,000	Misses Hamilton.		
*Balaam's	3,500	Queely Shiell	William Shiell . . .	Attorney.
*Nugent's	5,000	Sir John Talbot, Bart. . .	Denis Farrell . . .	The same.
*Frye's	6,000	Queely Shiell	William Shiell . . .	The same.
*Richmond's	9,000	The same	The same	The same.
*Grove	6,000	The same	The same	The same.
*Bransby's	7,000	Robert Dobridge, deceased .	John Dobridge . . .	Heir in possession.
*Dagnum	10,000	Sir Thomas Neave, Bart. .	Charles Venn	Attorney.
*Webb's	8,000	G. S. Martin and F. Shand .	Augustus V. Drury .	The same.
*Parson's	7,000	J. P. Trott and T. H. Percy.		
*Amersham's	8,000	Warner Ottley, deceased .	William Shiell . . .	Lessee.
*Broderick's	10,000	G. S. Martin and F. Shand .	Augustus V. Drury .	Attorney.
*Spring, and Reid's Hill	10,000	Edward Kensington . . .	William Shiell . . .	Lessee.
*Weeks's	6,000	Heirs of Dudley Semper .	William Shiell . . .	Receiver in Chancery.
*Symes and Lees	9,000	William D. Furlonge.		
*Gage's	7,000	Sir Henry Gage, Bart. . .	Edmond Semper . . .	Lessee.
Lady Cole's	500	Captain Kennedy, R.N. . .	John Osborn	Attorney.
*Sir Patrick Blake's . . .	2,000	Sr Patrick Blake	William Shiell . . .	Lessee.
Château de Belair	1,500	Elizabeth Pilkington . . .	Patrick Burns . . .	Attorney.
Two Rivers	300	Chambers and Meade . . .		
Carroll's	500	Eliza Robertson	William Chambers . .	Attorney.

PROVISION PROPERTIES.

Name of Estate.	Value in Currency.	Name of Owner.	Name of Estate.	Value in Currency.	Name of Owner.
	£.			£.	
Peter Gibbons's . .	100	Peter Gibbons.	Julius Allen's . . .	200	Julius Allen.
Thomas Weeks's . .	100	Thomas Weeks.	Elsy Roach's . . .	100	Elsy Roach.
George Kepple's . .	100	George Kepple.	James Wyke's . . .	50	James Wyke.
Quamina Grinwell's .	200	Quamina Grinwell.	Samuel Hussey's . .	50	Samuel Hussey.
Michael Fleming's . .	50	Michael Fleming.	Diana Bramble's . .	50	Diana Bramble.
Primus Willar's . .	50	Primus Willar.	Prince Ryley's . . .	50	Prince Ryley.
Edward Frith's . . .	50	Edward Frith.	Emma Parsons' . . .	50	Emma Parsons.
John Northward's . .	50	John Northward.	John Williams' . . .	100	John Williams.
Ann Daley's	50	Ann Daley.	Susanna Hodges' . .	50	Susanna Hodges.
Matthew Pond's . . .	50	Matthew Pond.	Philip Reed's	50	Philip Reed.
Frederick Dubery's .	50	Frederick Dubery.	Jack Knight's	50	Jack Knight.
John Locker and others	350	John Locker and others.	Lawrence Weeks' . .	50	Lawrence Weeks.
Samuel Doway's . . .	50	Samuel Doway.	Mary Osborn's	50	Mary Osborn.
Hannah Weeks' . . .	150	Hannah Weeks.	French Jose's	50	French Jose.
John Blake's	150	John Blake.	Patrick Allers' . . .	100	Patrick Allers.
Edward Allen's . . .	150	Edward Allen.	Eliza Wyke's	100	Eliza Wyke.
Betsy Jeffers'	150	Betsy Jeffers.	Robert Brown's . . .	50	Robert Brown.
Sarah Gordon's . . .	150	Sarah Gordon.	John Locker's	50	John Locker.
Ann Weeks'	100	Ann Weeks.	Buckle Winspear's . .	50	Buckle Winspear.
John Locker's	200	John Locker.	John Roach's	250	John Roach.
Quaw White's	100	Quaw White.	John Dyer's	50	John Dyer.
Spring Gardens . . .	200	Delia Parler.	Ann Chambers's . . .	100	Ann Chambers.
Henry Connell's . . .	50	Henry Connell.	Peter Dyer's	100	Peter Dyer.
Peter West and others.	100	Peter West and others.	Simon Bean's	150	Simon Bean.
Fairy Walk	100	Edwin Thwaites.	Jibboom	300	Heirs of Robert Dyett.
St. George's Hill . .	400	Mrs. Wheatland.	Trott and Percy's . .	100	J. P. Trott and J. H. Percy.
Constantine Meade . .	150	Constantine Meade.			
John Peters'	100	John Peters.	George S. Martin's . .	100	George S. Martin.
Joseph Locker's . . .	100	Joseph Locker.	Estate, Dudley Semper	300	Heirs of Dudley Semper.
Quaw White's	100	Quaw White.			
John N. Shiell's . . .	100	John N. Shiell.	Miss Ryan's	100	Miss Ryan.
Ann Harris	100	Ann Harris.	George John's	150	George John.
Samuel Doway's . . .	100	Samuel Doway.	John Bramble's	150	John Bramble.
Maria Young's	200	Maria Young.	Peter Delvin's	100	Peter Delvin.
Eleanor Sweeny's . . .	100	Heirs of Eleanor Sweeny.	Henry Corbett's . . .	300	Henry Corbett.

Total value, 298,000*l.*, including all properties out of the town of Plymouth.

REMARKS.—The value set opposite to each sugar and stock estate was fixed at that prosperous period of West Indian affairs when these properties may have brought those sums. At this time, however, such valuation is far above their actual worth.

Certified,

(Signed)

HENRY LOVING,
Colonial Secretary.

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Encl. 7 in No. 16.

Enclosure 7 in No. 16.

ANSWER TO LIST OF QUERIES, No. 1.

List of Estates sold by the Marshal during the last Three Years.	Date of Year.	Nature of Estate.	Cultivated or Uncultivated.	Value in the Levy Bill.	Sold for Taxes.	Default under Loan Act.	Under Private Execution.	Amount Sold for.	Amount of Taxes.	Amount of Default under Loan Act.	Amount of Private Execution.	Marshal's Fees and other Expense.
Fergus' Mountain	1845	Provision	Uncultivated . . .	£. 2,000	For taxes .	..	..	£. 501 0 0	£. 40 0 0	£. ..	£. ..	£. 30 0 0
Lawyer's Estate	"	Stock	"	2,500	"	..	..	424 0 0	17 17 0	..	..	28 1 10
Right and title of Martin Semper in—	"	Sugar	Cultivated by the negroes to a trifling extent on the metayer or division plan.	10,000	..	..	Sold under private execution.	408 0 0	..	..	2,626 1 9½	29 4 6
The Hermitage	"	"		7,000	..	..				
Upper and Lower	"	"		6,000	..	..				
Stretham.	"	"		3,500	..	..				
Ryley's, Week's	"	Stock	"	1,200	..	..	..	115 0 0	100 0 0	..	..	8 5 0
German's Bay	"	"	"	10,000	For taxes .	..	..	75 0 0	60 0 0	..	..	6 5 0
Cove and Dowdy's Bay.	"	Sugar	"	6,000	"	..	..	14 0 0	..	3 16 0	1 0 0	10 1 6
Hermitage Estate	1846	Provision	Uncultivated . . .	250	..	Default .	..	70 0 0	70 0 0	..	..	6 0 0
Week's Estate	"	Sugar	"	7,000	For taxes .	..	..	35 0 0	35 0 0	..	..	4 5 0
Virgin Islands	"	"	"	3,500	"	..	..	14 0 0	12 0 0	..	..	5 14 0
Stretham's and Ryley's	1847	Stock	"	1,200	"	..	..	3 12 0	8 10 0	..	..	0 3 7
German's Bay	"	"	"	350	"	..	..	1 12 0	1 10 0	..	..	0 1 8
Cove and Dowdy's Bay	"	"	"	150	"	..	..	2 12 0	2 10 0	..	..	0 2 7
Hell Gate	"	Sugar	"	250	"	..	..	80 0 0	80 0 0	..	..	14 2 0
Thatched Valley	"	"	"	8,000	"	..	..	60 0 0	60 0 0	..	..	..
Brun's Gut	"	"	"	6,000	"	..	..	20 0 0	20 0 0	..	..	..
Folly and Carr's Bay	"	"	"	2,000	"	..	..	20 0 0	20 0 0	..	..	..
Barzey's	"	"	"	100	"	1 0 0	1 0 0
Look Out	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Blake's	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Underwood's	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"

(Signed)

WILLIAM T. HAMILTON, P.M.

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MONTSERRAT.

ANSWER to LIST of QUERIES, No. 2.

List of Houses sold by the Marshal during the last Three Years.	Date.	Value in Levy Bill.	Sold for Taxes.	Default under Loan Act.	Private Execution.	Amount of Taxes.	Default under Loan Act.	Under Private Execution.	Amount sold for.	Marshal's Fees and other Expenses.
House in Parliament-street . . .	1845	£. s. d.	Taxes .	..	..	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
House in George-street . . .	"	200 0 0	Ditto .	..	..	4 0 0	..	..	160 0 0	13 0 0
Right and title of Martin Semper to house in George-street.	"	200 0 0	..	..	..	4 0 0	..	..	12 0 0	5 12 0
House in Strand, No. 1 . . .	"	1,000 0 0	..	..	Private execution	..	..	2,626 1 9½	270 0 0	19 14 2
House in ditto, No. 2 . . .	"	500 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
House in ditto, No. 3 . . .	"	500 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
House in Wapping . . .	"	250 0 0	Taxes .	..	..	5 0 0	..	..	66 0 0	8 6 0
Right and title of Michael J. Semper to house in George-street.	"	1,000 0 0	..	..	Private execution	..	..	1,147 3 11½	400 0 0	22 17 6
House in Strand, No. 1 . . .	"	500 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
House in ditto, No. 2 . . .	"	500 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
House in ditto, No. 3 . . .	"	500 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
House in Water-lane . . .	1846	200 0 0	Taxes .	..	..	2 0 0	..	..	23 0 0	8 2 0
House in George-street . . .	"	300 0 0	Ditto .	..	..	3 0 0	..	..	12 0 0	5 12 0
House in Parliament-street . . .	"	1,000 0 0	..	Loan Act	Private execution .	..	Cy-500 0 0	51 0 0	400 0 0	21 12 6
House in Water-lane . . .	1847	200 0 0	..	..	Ditto .	..	..	232 5 2	63 0 0	18 18 0
House in George-street . . .	"	100 0 0	..	..	Ditto .	..	..	149 8 6	45 0 0	10 2 6
House in Parliament-street . . .	"	500 0 0	..	..	Ditto .	..	..	894 7 6	551 0 0	31 17 6
House in George-street-lane . . .	"	400 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	210 0 0	..
House in ditto . . .	"	1,000 0 0	Taxes .	..	..	10 0 0	..	..	10 0 0	..
House in Strand, No. 1 . . .	"	500 0 0	Ditto .	..	..	5 0 0	..	..	5 0 0	11 5 0
House in ditto, No. 2 . . .	"	500 0 0	Ditto .	..	..	5 0 0	..	..	5 0 0	..
House in ditto, No. 3 . . .	"	500 0 0	Ditto .	..	..	5 0 0	..	..	5 0 0	..
House in George-street-lane, No. 1 . . .	"	50 0 0	Ditto .	..	..	0 10 0	..	..	6 12 0	7 17 0
House in ditto, No. 2 . . .	"	300 0 0	Ditto .	..	..	3 0 0	..	..	..	..
House in ditto, No. 3 . . .	"	300 0 0	Ditto .	..	..	3 0 0	..	..	..	..
House in John-street . . .	"	50 0 0	Ditto .	..	..	0 10 0	..	..	0 12 0	10 13 6
House in George-street-lane . . .	"	400 0 0	..	..	..	..	Sig. 3 19 0	..	55 0 0	3 0 11
House in Water-lane . . .	"	200 0 0	..	Loan Act	..	..	Sig. 1 10 0	..	6 8 5	..
House in Parliament-street . . .	"	200 0 0	..	Ditto .	Private execution .	..	..	1,147 0 0	53 0 0	30 15 0
House in George-street . . .	"	200 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Wm. T. HAMILTON, P. M.

(Signed)

MONTserrat.

Enclosure 8 in No. 16.

Encl. 8 in No. 16.

ADDRESS of Mr. President BAYNES to the Legislature.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Honourable Board of Council,
Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Honourable House of Assembly,

A PERIOD of eighteen months, a longer space of time than usual, has elapsed since I last met you. Happy indeed should I feel were it in my power to offer you my congratulations on the improved state of the country. I have not, I deplore to say, such satisfactory communication to impart. A painful retrospect and a doubtful future, affording no matter for a gratifying review, and but little for cheering anticipation, unhappily occupy at the present moment the minds of all with either keen regret or fearful foreboding. Returning to you at a time of so much distress, after the short absence of a single year, at the commencement of which I left you in comparative prosperity, finding trade diminishing, agriculture languishing, cultivation on many estates abandoned, resources exhausted or impaired, confidence extinct, education almost given up, I feel a melancholy satisfaction at having been absent from the island when it first experienced reverses which my humble services could neither have averted nor alleviated.

The immediate cause of the great and general distress at present prevailing throughout these colonies is to be traced almost entirely to circumstances over which they could exercise no control, which it was difficult to foresee and impossible to counteract. Of these, the admission of slave-cultivated sugars into the British market, at a greatly reduced rate of duty, has without doubt been the principal; but it is an error to attribute altogether the fall in price which has taken place, and has defeated calculation, to the mere competition we have now to sustain with slave-holding countries. Other depressing influences have been at work, and combining with diminished protection have placed an additional load on the British planter, which, though the effects may continue to be felt for a time after the cessation of their causes, happily cannot in the nature of things be permanent.

The mighty empire of which this island forms so inconsiderable a portion, but to which it is nevertheless our glory and happiness to belong, was last year shaken to its centre by a calamity which, extending over a large part of the United Kingdom, menaced, indeed afflicted or affected, the whole. Of the 24,000,000 who form the population of the British islands, an entire third suffered, and the remainder apprehended all the horrors of famine. The price of almost every article of human sustenance rose to an unprecedented height. Public prayers were offered up, fasts appointed, the national purse was drained for the relief of the sufferers, and private contributions to a vast aggregate amount cheerfully afforded by the sympathy and commiseration of the inhabitants (themselves straitened in their circumstances by the existing pressure) of every nook and corner of Great Britain.

At the commencement of this awful visitation, corn, the growth of the United Kingdom, sugar, that of so many of her colonies, and many other necessities of life, were still protected against competition by high duties. An enlightened Government saw the necessity of removing all obstacles in the way of a free supply of food. A desperate struggle ensued, in which individual interests vainly strove against, and was finally sacrificed to national safety. The West India proprietor shared the fate of the British landlord. Protective duties were either swept away or marked for gradual extinction.

Let me here call your attention to the significant words of the able and talented individual who now presides over the destinies of this government on this interesting subject, on which I fear that delusive hopes and futile expectations are still entertained by many.

"It is unnecessary for me," says his Excellency in his address to the legislature of Antigua, "to enter into the great vexed question of free trade. The battle has been fought, and after a long and severe contest won by the advocates of that system, and it is idle to expect that the commercial relations of the United Kingdom will henceforth be guided by any other spirit."

We may, gentlemen, rest assured that the Government of our mother country has acted and will continue in all its relations with these colonies to be guided by parental solicitude. This measure has not been the result of choice, but of necessity. Unhappily the wisdom and experience which carried it into effect could not suggest means of immediate extrication from all the inconveniences inseparable from so sudden a change. The great motive principle must not, however, be mistaken; it was not the withdrawing of protection from the West Indian, but the sustenance of the British population.

It is certain that Her Majesty's Government will afford these colonies every relief consistent with equity towards the rights of others, and compatible with the general welfare of our common country. Your interests, your claims, your rights, will assuredly be anxiously looked into and carefully considered.

I have already said in the beginning of my address that the future is doubtful. Do I go further, and think it hopeless? Certainly not; but much, almost all, depends on yourselves. You know the worst. It seems next to certain that the last remnant of protection will cease in 1851. At the bottom we can fall no lower. Let us see what elements exist for our re-ascend, let us hope no Sisyphean labour.

Istly. Although it would not become a subordinate officer like myself to discuss the chances of a reduction of the duties on your sugars, I am sensible of no temerity in expressing my opinion, that if they can be lessened without loss to the revenue, as for my own part I think they can, the boon will probably be granted, and, if accorded, it cannot fail to prove a great alleviation to the load now pressing on you, overweighted as you at present are in your race with the grower of slave-cultivated sugars.

2ndly. If the British grower is no longer to receive protection against any interest, it is but reasonable and fair that no interest should be protected against him. I need not particularize. The great extent to which relief can in this manner be afforded is known to us all; and this knowledge, by sustaining our hopes and stimulating our exertions, may serve to encourage us not to prejudice our future prospects by relaxing our efforts during this season of severe trial.

Owing to the scantiness of our resources, the advantages of African immigration, so eagerly demanded, and so confidently depended on by most of our sister colonies, are not open to us. Useful immigration can scarcely be looked for in a country in which money wages do not exceed 5½d. per diem. Moreover it is not labour, but capital, and the means to draw the labour out and pay for it, that are wanting to us. We have at this moment, exporting on an average not more than 800 hogsheads of sugar, a population as numerous as when the island sent home thrice that quantity.

These appear to me to be the modes in which relief can chiefly be extended to us by Her Majesty's Government. For other means of escape from impending difficulties we must look to ourselves. Two objects seem essentially necessary to ensure the future profitable cultivation of sugar in this island—an increase of quantity, and a diminution of the cost of production. Are they attainable? It will not, I think, prove altogether useless to take a brief review of the principles still existing which may lead us to entertain a reasonable expectation that they are so, or at least induce us to make a fair trial.

1stly. The application, as regards both culture and manufacture, of improved methods now coming into operation, whether they tend to increase the quantity or ameliorate the quality of your staples.

2ndly. Want of capital no doubt precludes the construction in this island of railways, and even tramways, but the general substitution of steam for the uncertain wind and laborious cattle mill, might be effected without considerable outlay. It would operate beneficially in expediting the manufacture of sugar, and thus reducing its cost. In an island in which estates are so small, and in most parts lie so close to each other, common factories for the manufacture of produce, situated at convenient distances from the properties combining to establish them (a selection might be made from those at present existing, not a single new set of buildings need be erected), appear to me to offer the prospect of a great saving of labour, and, in consequence, a reduction of expense. I would suggest, in addition, that the manufactured produce should be conveyed to the place of embarkation by mules; also the common property of the owners of the factory.

3rdly. Nothing but good can possibly result from your relinquishing the prevailing system of tenancy at will, and the consequent confusing of what properly ought to be rent with wages, and the introduction in its place of a money rent. If a tenant paid a fixed and moderate sum for the tenements occupied by him, the proprietor would receive in rent what he would lose in labour, and he would soon find the profit arising from a negro village a source of regular income to him, in addition to the produce of his estate, and one more independent of bad seasons and other prejudicial contingencies, which so often distressingly blight the hopes of the agriculturists. The present practice reverses the natural order of labour and payment, and removes, instead of applying, a stimulus to cultivation. The wants of the labourer being gratuitously provided for from his provision grounds beforehand, there is a total absence of that chief and sometimes sole incentive to industry—the necessity of providing for daily sustenance.

4thly. The punctual payment, weekly, of the wages of the labourer. Irregular payment is infallibly productive of insufficient labour. The payment also in all cases of fair and sufficient wages, and the exaction, in return, of a fair and sufficient day's labour,—say nine hours, as in Barbados, where I believe wages average 9d. sterling per diem. Here they do not exceed 5½d.; but it is a fact well known to us all, that the workman does not for that sum afford his employer four hours of honest labour. Wages are then really higher here than in Barbados, and very considerably so, if we view in such light the return obtained by the labourers from their provision grounds. By raising wages to the Barbados standard, compensating the excess over the present rate, by requiring it for rent of houses and grounds (although this charge must naturally vary with the accommodation of the buildings and extent of land occupied), and by insisting on nine hours of fair work, much more labour would certainly be obtained under your present imperfect system, and yet neither the labourer nor employer suffer in their equitable interests by this arrangement.

5thly. Although I have often called your attention to, I have never succeeded in sufficiently impressing on your minds, the necessity of a just and equitable contract law, binding alike on master and servant, without which the improvements just recommended cannot be carried into effect. A law of this nature, by compelling the observance of reciprocal obligations, would, as I have more than once told you from this place, not only increase the quantity of your produce, but also diminish the cost of producing it.

6thly. Another great saving may, I think, be effected by a diminution of the charges on freight, now I believe about 4s. 6d. per cwt., or 4l. 10s. per ton. Surely this is disproportionately high, when the average price of sugar in the market is 21l. per ton., 14l. of which are absorbed by the wages of the labourers, cost of manufacture, taxes, &c. Thus you pay at present, for mere carriage, nearly 21½ per cent. on the gross, and 63½ per cent. on the value of your produce, after paying the cost of production.

I have now, it appears to me, adverted to the principal means by the application of which you may reasonably hope to sustain yourselves under the pressure of present difficulties.

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MONTSERRAT.

Had anything recommended in the foregoing suggestions appeared to me necessarily to require a large outlay, I should not have submitted it to your consideration in the present impoverished state of the country. But the improvements hinted at under the first and second heads do not involve much cost; and the means required to pay your labourers must be forthcoming at some time, whether weekly or half-yearly; if not, cultivation must cease altogether, or subside into the rude expedient of agriculture in its infancy, now fast disappearing from Europe, before maturer experience and more enlightened usage; I mean the metayer or division system. The increase of wages alluded to in the fourth place would be compensated by the amount which would return to you in form of rent. The remainder of these suggestions all tend directly to effect a diminution of your expenses. Will they, is still the question, if put in practice, secure the two great objects that they are designed to attain—an increase of produce and a diminished cost of production, which I have assumed as necessary to the continued profitable cultivation of sugar? I think they will; I know that no harm can result from making the experiment.

The apologue of Hercules and the Waggoner is an old fable, but it contains an eternal truth.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Honourable House of Assembly,

I am persuaded that you will not fail to turn your earnest attention to the state of the revenue, and the means of meeting the public exigencies. The wise and prudent measure suggested to you, in his anxious solicitude for your welfare, by his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, that of passing an Act for raising a permanent revenue, cannot fail to restore and sustain the public credit, and to meet the approval of Her Majesty's Government, to whose beneficence in advancing so large a loan for the restoration of your buildings, overthrown or damaged by the calamitous visitation in February 1843, many of yourselves and of your constituents are so deeply indebted. The discharge of your engagements on this head will, I feel assured, be honourably and carefully provided for. I need not point out to you the necessity of the strict economy in your expenditure so indispensable in this season of severe distress.

Mr. President and Members of the Honourable Board of Council,

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly,

Of the various measures proposed to you by his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief during his visit to this island, some, I am aware, are under your consideration; others no doubt will receive it. A permanent Tax Bill, and an Insolvent Debtors' Act, with fixed sessional meetings of the Legislature, will greatly improve the general condition of the country. Whilst on this subject I would remind you of the communication of his Lordship the Secretary of State for the Colonies, recommending certain amendments to the Cattle Tax Act, which, though transmitted to you so far back as November 1846, has not yet received the consideration of the Legislature.

We have no Act in force in the island for duly regulating the exercise of elective franchise; much uncertainty always, and great abuses often in consequence, prevail at elections; I solicit your early attention to the means of providing a remedy for this serious evil, affecting as it does the very foundation of the bulwark of constitutional liberty.

I have to thank you for two most useful enactments; that for providing a suitable maintenance for the destitute poor, and that for the appointment of town wardens; they will no doubt be productive of highly beneficial effects.

The 9th and 10th Vict., c. 94, authorizes the abolition of certain duties imposed during the preceding year by the 8th and 9th Vict., c. 93. It will be for you to consider the expediency of availing yourselves of this concession. It would not, I am aware, in the present state of your finances, be in your power to relieve the public from taxation to that amount; but should you determine on removing them as imperial imposts, they may be advantageously transferred to the local tariff, which, being lower than in any of the neighbouring islands, is, there is no doubt, susceptible of profitable increase.

Notwithstanding the exertion of the visiting justices, it is found difficult to maintain proper order and discipline in the gaol of this town, chiefly I am of opinion owing to the absence of adequate means of coercion, of which solitary cells have always been found amongst the most efficient in preserving prison discipline. With the exception of one large dark room, formerly a powder magazine, there are no such places of restraint in the institution. The number of prisoners at present under sentence of hard labour is sufficient to erect, under the superintendence of a mason, two or more of such cells. Stones may be gathered on the neighbouring beach. Of timber work there need be little; so that a few hogsheads of lime would be all the additional expense incurred. I strongly recommend the employment of a matron to superintend the female prisoners, a task which can be but imperfectly and certainly not decorously performed by males.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, in his address to the Legislature of Antigua, advises the re-organization of the militia force. His Excellency's reasons equally apply to this portion of his government. Although we, at present, enjoy the blessings of peace, it is prudent to be prepared for the possible contingency of war. I apprehend no difficulty in raising a body of militia at once sufficiently strong and respectable on the eligible plan proposed by Lord Stanley, when Secretary for the Colonies. It is obvious, that in order to render such a force really serviceable and effective, all distinctions based merely on race or colour must be strictly guarded against.

I am aware, not from any communication on the subject received from the Governor-in-Chief, but derived from other sources, that the prayer of Montserrat for an incorporation

with the more important and flourishing island of Antigua has been by his Excellency submitted and strongly recommended to the Legislature of that colony; may the result be beneficial to both.

It will be my duty to lay before you several communications from the Governor-in-Chief, amongst these another one of the many urgent despatches of the Colonial Office on the subject of the education and industrial training of the labouring population, an object to the success of which not only Her Majesty's Government, but almost every individual in the British empire capable of understanding its necessity or of appreciating its benefits, look with intensest interest. The education of the working classes has, I regret to admit, greatly fallen off in Montserrat during the last twelve months, owing to the want of sufficient means and contributions to sustain the different schools. A grant from you, however small, voted with the view of retrieving lost ground and making further progress, would be of unspeakable use by affording a praiseworthy example, and showing every member of the community that you participate and sympathize with the universal yearning of the wise and good for the extension to those who so much need it of a blessing so essential to the advance and amelioration of the human race. A small boon from you will resemble the widow's mite; it will be like a flower in the desert, the more beautiful, the more grateful, the more acceptable, from our knowledge of the poverty of the soil which has produced it.

Gentlemen, I have now discharged my duty to the best of my humble ability in bringing the present condition and future prospects of the island under your notice. That you will do yours by earnestly endeavouring to remedy or alleviate existing evils, and thus prepare the way for a happier future, I am convinced. May the blessing of the Divine disposer of events prosper our joint efforts for the common good.

Government House, Montserrat,
December 15, 1847.

(Signed) EDWARD DACRES BAYNES.

MONTSERRAT.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

No. 17.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HIGGINSON to Earl GREY.

Antigua, Government House, St. John's,
May 4, 1848.
(Received June 3, 1848.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, in duplicate, the Blue Book of the Virgin Islands for the year 1847, together with the copy of a report thereon, which I have received from the President administering that Government.

Although the various adverse circumstances adverted to by Mr. Hay, have operated most injuriously on the agricultural prosperity of these islands, and have tended to check that progress towards amelioration which there seemed reason to hope for in 1846, it is nevertheless satisfactory to observe that public credit has improved, that the attention of the Legislature has been directed to salutary measures of reform, and that the institutions of the colony continue to be maintained on an effective footing.

I concur generally in the views expressed by Mr. Hay, of the present condition and future prospects of the Virgin Islands; but having so recently made your Lordship acquainted with the opinions which I have been led to form on the causes and circumstances of the distress and depression which universally prevail throughout the colonies committed to my charge, it seems unnecessary on this occasion for me to say more than that, since the date of the Despatch to which I refer, the 26th December last, I see no reason to change the opinions then expressed by me.

It is due to the emancipated labourers to remark, that under the trying ordeal to which they have been necessarily subjected,—I allude to the reduction of wages to one-half of previous prices,—their conduct has been distinguished by good sense, forbearance, and moderation; and although it has been occasionally represented that the quantity of work performed for sixpence per day is less than what was obtained for a shilling, the negroes continue to give their labour freely and steadily at the reduced rates.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) J. M. HIGGINSON.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

No. 17.

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VIRGIN ISLANDS.
Encl. in No. 17.

Enclosure in No. 17.

SIR,

Virgin Islands, Tortola, April 22, 1848.

I have the honour to forward to your Excellency, the Blue Book of the Virgin Islands for the year 1847.

These returns, indicative of little change in the general condition of the colony during the period which they embrace, would seem on the whole, to favour the hope of improvement expressed in my last Report. But this prospect is for the present moment disturbed by the unpromising appearances prevailing, and I am compelled to allow that the gloomy anticipations encouraged by some, are not without foundation.

The withdrawal by a mercantile house in England, of the capital hitherto employed annually in the maintenance of more than a third of the sugar cultivation of the colony, has alone been sufficient to give a severe shock, the failure that led to this withdrawal entailing a loss on the community from which the means of recovery are not within immediate prospect. There are now no properties in the Virgin Islands, whose holders are not embarrassed for want of capital or credit, sufficient to enable them to carry on the simplest method of cultivation effectively.

The precarious position in which the West Indian interests generally have been viewed of late, very much enhances difficulties of this nature, lessening credit, and disabling those concerned in property from taking active measures to increase its remunerative value, and must, I fear, produce a still greater depression than already prevails, unless influences not at present in existence are brought into action.

Present circumstances are thus undoubtedly disheartening.

A general retrospective view of former years, shows a slightly varied alternation of better and worse, with an increasing tendency to the latter.

The natural resources, however, which (deemed impoverished) have resisted difficulties heretofore, are yet sufficient to enable the colony to recover some degree of prosperity ; and, notwithstanding the fact that the result of a comparison of late with former years is at first sight unfavourable, I am still willing to indulge the hope of improvement,

I subjoin a statement in a tabular form, containing returns showing the comparative state of revenue and expenditure, trade and exported produce, from 1835 to 1847. No records are found here of previous years, except 1830, which is also given.

Years.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Imports.	Exports.	Hogsheads of Sugar exported.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	
1830	809	In Arrear.	No Return.	No Return.	1,173
1831	No Return.	No Return.	"	"	No Return.
1832	"	"	"	"	"
1833	"	"	"	"	"
1834	"	"	"	"	"
1835	508	In Arrear.	15,576	20,890	977
1836	2,796	"	13,337	23,110	998
1837	2,544	"	19,574	26,385	940
1838	2,199	"	7,260	11,940	463
1839	1,964	"	10,456	16,105	674
1840	2,926	"	17,401	14,568	473
1841	1,668	1,718	14,133	22,276	786
1842	2,331	2,508	9,454	14,809	473
1843	2,404	2,340	11,300	14,755	541
1844	1,522	2,272	8,052	13,667	398
1845	2,286	2,326	9,200	14,805	735
1846	1,922	1,865	9,256	8,005	464
1847	2,105	2,047	9,386	13,071	610
Average of nine years, from 1838 to 1846	2,135	2,235	10,723	14,547	556
Average of three years, from 1844 to 1846	1,910	2,154	8,836	12,159	532
1847 . . .	2,105	2,047	9,386	13,071	610

In the earlier years, while agriculture and manufacture were in a comparatively flourishing state, there was a deplorable neglect of every other subject of public interest. There was little or no legislation, no provision made to defray the expenses of the local Government, and consequently a heavy debt allowed to accumulate in years of prosperity, to burden the country withal when suffering from other pressure. Hurricanes have swept away and destroyed a large amount of fixed capital and standing crops. Resident capitalists became involved, and property passed rapidly into different successive hands, interested in forcing out of the land the repayment of liabilities incurred by the previous holders, a sure method of hastening exhaustion.

The abolition of slavery produced, like all great changes, a revolution injurious in its immediate action to many established interests, while the full practical benefits to grow out of the change have been as yet undeveloped, and difficulties still arise to be contended against with weakened energies.

Years of drought, entailing heavy losses, have followed in quick succession, disabling the planter from maintaining cultivation, by depriving him of the farming capital for reinvestment.

These difficulties and disasters have been borne with the hope of change for the better, and there is still room for economy and perseverance to ensure a remunerative return, unless the apprehended ruin be invited by a wish to prove that it is inevitable.

In other places the labour market is unsupplied. In this colony there is labour ample to meet any present demand: capital is alone wanting; and although it may be truly urged that some favourable stimulus would be desirable, yet recent events, disastrous in themselves, may possibly cause a partial influx, as speculators may be induced, by the very low value at which estates are at present rated, to invest their capital in land.

The plan of working for shares of the produce has been adopted as the only alternative under existing circumstances, and, with good management, has been found to succeed.

The system has its advantages at such a moment as the present, but its general adoption, as the sole method of cultivating the staple, is not to be desired. It tends in theory to produce a greater community of interest between the tiller and the owner of the soil; but it is questionable how far the peasantry are capable of appreciating and practically working it out. Experience in other parts of the world has shown that the metairie system may save from ruin, but never enriches.

In the meantime it is desirable to provide by law for the summary adjustment of questions arising out of agreements of this kind. Few questions indeed are likely to arise where good management is exercised, or where the people have confidence in the proprietor or manager, which I believe to be the general case. One instance has, however, occurred of an attempt to defraud the labourers of their portion of the produce; and your Excellency is aware that it has been proposed to the Legislature that the provisions of the law of contracts between masters and servants should be extended to these agreements.

The returns above referred to show, that if an average of the last nine years, from 1835 to 1846, gives a result in each department unfavourable to 1847, yet the returns for the three immediately preceding years, 1844, 1845, and 1846, are not found, on an average, to equal those of 1847. The revenue and expenditure, instead of bearing no proportion to each other, have, within the last few years, been adjusted; the expenditure being much reduced, the current debt liquidated to a fractional amount, and the public credit (low as it still is) much improved. Where there was formerly about 1,000% or 1,500% of negotiable public paper constantly afloat at a heavy discount, there have been of late cash payments from the treasury, and a regular discharge of all immediate liabilities for the public service, while, at the same time, the people have been relieved of a considerable portion of the colonial duties on all imports coming under the denomination of necessaries; and if, on the whole, the official returns are found within the last nine years to indicate a falling-off, a comparison with the last three years is, on an average, favourable to 1847 in every point of view. It cannot, it is true, be said that any community whose products have diminished both in quantity and value, and whose immediate prospects are shown to be so clouded, is improving merely because its finances are better adjusted; but, on the other hand, it cannot be denied that a country possesses at least the elements

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VIRGIN ISLANDS. of improvement when, in times of scarcity and difficulty, there is still a progressive recovery from financial embarrassment, and an approach to solvency in the departments of the government, without the imposition of any additional burdens on the people.

Various beneficial measures have been passed by the legislature during the past year, and others are in progress; but, from the peculiar constitution of the popular branch, arising out of the narrow limits afforded by the population for the selection of representatives, whose avocations or habits permit them to attend to their public duties, the legislative sessions are very uncertain, and their proceedings more dilatory than could be desired.

The returns under the head of education show, in respect of numbers, that a very great progress has been made during the past year. The increase has been principally in the schools under the management of the Wesleyan Missionaries, who exercise a very extensive, and of late much improved, influence over the people. The number of scholars attending the schools attached to the Church Establishment are about the same as in the previous year; those attending the Wesleyan schools have nearly doubled their number. The total number of attendants at school amounted in 1846 to 749; the number in 1847 is shown to have increased to 1,247.

A school established by me about a year ago in the island of Anegada on industrial principles has been noticed by the stipendiary magistrate in his half-yearly returns. I am happy to say that, so far as I can learn (for Anegada is not easily visited), the school has succeeded.

I am unable at present to give you any further details as to the working of the school than are contained in the stipendiary magistrate's returns; but, from the master's reports, it would appear that the industrial character given to the school by such occupations in leisure hours, under his superintendence, as walling in and cultivating a garden, the making of fishing nets, and the plaiting of straw for hats, has been cheerfully appreciated.

Associations of the nature of benefit or mutual assurance societies are much required. The want of medical attendance, since the withdrawal of the allowance formerly granted on estates for this purpose, has been seriously felt, and would seem alone sufficient to have engaged the people to unite in the formation of these most useful institutions. Attempts have been made from time to time since 1839 to establish them, but with little success until recently. The difficulty of providing in this colony, where there is so little stability in public or private property, for the secure investment of the funds of such associations has been explained by me in a recent Despatch, and may be assumed to have been one of the causes of their failure. There seems to be, however, an increasing disposition to apprehend the necessity for a provision for the future, and societies are now in full progress; they have been formed principally among the members of the Wesleyan congregation, the greater portion of the inhabitants of the colony being of that persuasion.

The peasantry continue to be peaceful and orderly; and, patient under the pressure of the times, have shown themselves willing to labour on moderate terms.

Serious offences against the law have not increased, and though the convictions for petty offences are rather more numerous on the face of the official returns, they are too unimportant and casual to require further notice.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) E. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

NEVIS.

NEVIS.

No. 18.

(No. 24.)

No. 18.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HIGGINSON to Earl GREY.

Antigua, Government House, St. John's,
May 8, 1848.

(Received June 3, 1848.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, in duplicate, the "Blue Book" of the Island of Nevis for the year 1847, together with a copy of the Report

thereon, which I have received from the President administering that Government.

I much regret that the favourable view taken by Mr. Shortland, of the affairs of this colony last year has not been realized; the causes assigned by him, and which have to a greater or less extent, retarded the agricultural prosperity of the whole of the British West Indies, are sufficient to account for the retrogression which has been experienced. Although it must be admitted that future prospects are gloomy, and that the struggle into which the employer of free labour has been forced, is of doubtful issue, I encourage the hope, that if the present crisis, now I trust drawing to a close, were once passed, returning confidence and better prices may furnish the means of carrying on the profitable cultivation of estates, and comparative success may yet be retrieved, and that Her Majesty's possessions in these seas may continue to hold their rank amongst the valuable colonial dependencies of the empire.

Among the general depression, it is satisfactory to observe that no public debt has been incurred, the revenue raised within the year having been more than equal to the expenditure; and that the institutions of the island are maintained on an effective footing, and that education, so directly essential to the advancement of the emancipated race, and indirectly to the welfare of all classes, is steadily progressing.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) J. M. HIGGINSON.

Enclosure in No. 18.

Encl. in No. 18.

(No. 33.)

SIR,

Government House, Nevis, May 3, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to forward the "Blue Book" for the year 1847. I regret it is out of my power to take the same favourable view of the condition and prospects of the colony that I was enabled to do on a similar occasion last year. The distress which has so universally prevailed has visited this island with peculiar hardship, and caused a general depression and stagnation of trade, hitherto unparalleled; nor can a speedy revival be anticipated, as the difficulties now to be encountered are more the result of the absence of capital and credit than the low price of colonial produce. The latter has been compensated for to a great extent by the present abundance of labour, and the very low rate of wages; but the planters are precluded from taking advantage of this favourable circumstance, from the impossibility of obtaining the usual advances, the failure of the West India Bank, and the refusal of the English merchants to accept their bills, having entirely destroyed the system in which West India estates have hitherto been cultivated.

The revenue collected during the year proved equal to the expenditure, leaving a balance in the treasurer's hands amounting to 594*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*

The crop was unusually large, exceeding any since the days of slavery, when the average number of hogsheads of sugar exported amounted to 4000; on this occasion it reached 3734.

A comparison of the exports with the imports, taken at their estimated value, shows an unusually large balance in favour of the colony, a clear indication of its improving condition before it was overtaken by the late crisis.

In public works considerable progress has been made; the court-house now in course of erection will probably be finished towards the end of this year, and the churches which suffered by the earthquake have not only been restored, but considerably enlarged, so as to afford ample accommodation for all classes.

Education, although unaided by the Legislature, is advancing satisfactorily; some improvement has been effected in the Church schools, and I have reason to anticipate still greater.

The population steadily increases; several Portuguese immigrants were introduced by private enterprise, and as labour was at that time scarce, the effect produced was very beneficial; but I am sorry to add that many fell victims to the climate.

NEVIS

2.

1.

Hogsheads 4,000.
Hogsheads 3,734.

1846.
Exports 49,501*l.*
Imports 36,778*l.*

1847.
Exports 78,405*l.*
Imports 37,103*l.*

Balance 41,302*l.*

150

NEVIS.

The labouring classes deserve commendation for the very proper spirit in which they have yielded to the altered circumstances of their employers; they seem quite sensible of the inability of the planters to continue the former rate of wages, and work cheerfully at a reduction of more than one-half; but I cannot report equally favourably of the morals of some portion of the community, a hard labour gang, for the two last years unknown, is now in active operation, and rarely consists of less than six to eight persons.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

WILLOUGHBY SHORTLAND.

To Governor Higginson,
&c. &c.

DOMINICA.

No. 19.

DOMINICA.

(No. 18.)

No. 19.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HIGGINSON to Earl GREY.

Antigua, Government House,
July 22, 1848.

(Received August 21, 1848.)

MY LORD,

2.

1.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, in duplicate, the Blue Book of Dominica for the year 1847, together with a copy of the report thereon, which I have received from the President administering that government.

2. The deficiency in the public finances noticed by the President will, I trust, prove to be only temporary, as it arises chiefly from a falling off in the value of imports, produced in a great measure by the commercial embarrassments of the past year, which for a time so damaged confidence and credit as to have seriously deranged the ordinary operations of trade. It is also expected that when the Acts come into force which have been passed by the local Legislature with a view to the improvement of the revenue, and which have been submitted to your Lordship's consideration, they will augment the public resources.

3. In Dominica, as in all the other islands comprising this general government, grievous distress, both agricultural and commercial, have recently prevailed; and although I cannot affirm that any substantial amendment has yet taken place, I am impressed with the belief that the extreme severity of the ordeal has been passed. The cost of producing sugar has been considerably diminished by the general reduction of wages, and sufficient labour at the reduced rates is obtainable; but the want of capital to carry on the cultivation of estates in an effective and economical manner appears to me to be the great evil to be overcome. Confidence in West India property has been so much shaken by late unfortunate events, that those who have heretofore made advances in anticipation of the proceeds of produce sales now hold back, and very few proprietors are independent of such advances.

4. It is satisfactory to find that notwithstanding the general depression and the great fall in the price of labour, the physical condition of the working population is still equal, if not superior, to that of the corresponding classes of the community in other countries, and that the fruits of their industry suffice not only to keep them above want but to supply every necessary of life. They are represented by the President to be contented and orderly; and I may be permitted to add, that their conduct under recent trying circumstances entitles them to high commendation.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

J. M. HIGGINSON.

Encl. in No. 19.

Enclosure in No. 19.

Government House, Dominica,
July 1, 1848.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Books for this island, in duplicate, and I beg leave to state that the non-transmission of these documents was occasioned by the tardiness of the necessary documents not having been received to arrive earlier at their completion.

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Revenue.

DOMINICA.

I am sorry to observe on this subject that the finance of the colony has decreased considerably, and if measures are not promptly taken I fear that the Treasury will not be able to meet the present exigencies of the country, public officers and the police force being now three months without payment of their salaries.

Public Improvements.

There are none. The canal has been suspended in its progress on account of permission not having as yet been given by the proprietor of the estate in which it passes.

Population.

The Portuguese emigrants continue to give satisfaction to their employers. None have emigrated to this island last year.

Education.

The clergy of the several denominations continue very zealous in training up the children under their respective charges.

Militia.

The Militia Act referred to in the report for 1846 has not as yet been introduced into the Legislature.

Crime.

None of any capital nature has taken place.

Legislative.

Her Majesty in Council has sanctioned several Acts passed by the Legislature of this colony.

Gaol.

This establishment continues as heretofore; no alterations have as yet been carried into effect for its improvement.

Wages.

The wages have been lowered owing to the low rate paid for produce in the mother country. The people appear contented, quiet, and orderly. The colony continues healthy and the crops promise to be good.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. L. BREMNER,
President Administering the Government.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

BRITISH GUIANA.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 20.

No. 20.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Earl GREY.

Government House, Demerara,
May 3, 1848.

(Received June 3, 1848.)

MY LORD,

I did not anticipate having to prolong my residence in this colony, nor to report on the Blue Book of this year. I shall, however, make some observations on the state of the colony, and add some details which will not be found in the Blue Book, whose columns are limited to the ordinary information. I shall have the honour of reporting—

- 1st. On the State and Prospects of the Colony.
- 2nd. Education of the Creoles.
- 3rd. Crime.
- 4th. Progress of Civil Laws during the present Year.
- 5th. Administrator-General's Report.

1. *State and Prospects of the Colony.*

It is useless to conceal the fact of the great distress of the proprietary body, and it will be difficult to avert the ruin threatening a great portion of the

U

BRITISH GUIANA.

possessors of estates. The planters now suffer from the sudden stoppage of credit which was formerly open to them. When credit existed, large sums were bidden or demanded for estates which, in the last three or four years, have become almost valueless.

Estates worked by advances from England were a lottery, in which every one struggled to obtain a prize at the expense of his neighbour. Hence, labourers were seduced from one estate to another; higher wages were the result, which, in the end, have absorbed the resources of the employers. The labourers are enriched; the owner has been left penniless.

In the latter end of 1846, and beginning of 1847, unworthy, designing agitators influenced the minds of a large portion of the Creole population; the labourers would not work.

It would have been well for the colony if the diminution of wages which is now in progress had then taken place. The executive and paid magistrates, who were denounced as enemies to the Creoles, as supporters of the planters, in attempts at diminution, had taken no part. It was left to the employers and employed to settle the question of wages in the same manner as at present, and as it has ever been.

Had the diminution of wages taken place in 1847, rather than in 1848, many estates now jeopardized would, perhaps, have escaped; for the crops were large enough to have given profit, had expenses of labour not absorbed it. I consider it a great disadvantage to the progress of civilization that the Creoles, young and old, have hitherto been enabled to earn, by two or three days' labour of six or seven hours each per week, more than sufficient maintenance; they are thus induced to irregular habits; they shoot, fish, and lead a wandering life. Planters cannot regulate the work on their estates as farmers do in Europe; they are subject to the caprice of the negro; continuous labour cannot be had; the crops fail, while the liabilities increase; and there are not a few of the nominal possessors of property who are ground to the earth by the debts accumulated annually, from the enormous interest which the habits of West Indian dealings have introduced.

No change of system, no protection, no amount of immigration, will relieve the owners of estates who are involved to their principal owner with an interest rising from twenty to twenty-eight per cent.

Under the present rate of wages, and having no artificial means of improving the soil, no credit at home to obtain those means, the case of many of the present proprietors is hopeless.

The introduction of large numbers of emigrants, whose services are secured by indenture, will doubtless preserve possession of the least burthened estates to their owners. But a most rigid economy must be observed to make an ordinary estate profitable at the present prices of sugar. Economy is proposed, but it is defective. It is well known that although the outcry against outbidding in the labour market has been, and is, loud, yet competition still holds, to the great disadvantage of those planters whose credit is limited, and the weakest must then fall—their estates will be abandoned.

It has been affirmed that although many estates may be abandoned, yet those whose owners can resist the present crisis, will have the cultivation enlarged, will command more labour, and have better and larger crops; in the end, therefore, very little decrease will occur in the exports of the staple produce. With certain reservations, I think that the natural result of a diminished number of estates is, the employment of the hands turned away by other proprietors who have kept their estates.

Many estates have already been sold to the Creole labourers; the desire for land is not at all lessened; the experience of some years has made me alter my opinion as to the benefit the purchase of estates has been to the Creoles. I was, like other well-wishers to the descendants of the African race, glad to see the progress of independence; but I do not believe now that such purchases have tended to the civilization, advancement, or industry of the purchasers.

The estates have been indiscriminately cultivated in provisions; sublet, subsold, partitioned amongst gangs of new comers, the drainage neglected, and the evils of largely associated bodies, without managing heads, become manifest.

The continued gains of the negro are daily proved. Within the last six weeks the "Good Hope," on the east coast, Demerara, was bought by a very

* *Vide* annexed document; a few instances out of hundreds given as example how speculators were ground by the lenders of money.

Enclosure No. 1.

limited number of labourers for fifty thousand dollars; and an abandoned cattle farm, named "Golden Grove," on the same coast, has been bought by a single labourer for five thousand dollars. BRITISH GUIANA.

It becomes a matter of serious consideration to what these purchases will bring the colony. It is to be hoped that education will elevate the minds of the Creoles above being satisfied with the mere subsistence which the cultivation of provisions secures; the sea coasts and trenches swarm with fish, for which there is no market, nor desire for one; it is eaten by the villagers, is not a medium of traffic, and the ease with which life is thus supported contributes to the indifference of a large portion of the Creoles to aught but ease.

This, in older countries, may be a proper reward, in maturer years, for industry in early life. Men labour at their vocation in Europe, promising to themselves ease and enjoyment at the end of a certain number of years passed in toil.

The facility with which independence, sufficient for the subsistence of a race of men so lately released from coercion, is obtained, may almost be considered an evil. Pass but a few years and the original stock of labourers will be withdrawn from cultivation of exportable produce, by possession of independence; the exports will depend on emigrants.

It is true that several of the planters have encouraged the metayer system, and portions of estates have been leased to labourers on favourable terms, both to proprietor and farmer; the low prices of the last year have checked the extension of this system. Nor do I think a rent system could be successfully carried on at present. The cultivation of sugar requires a supervision of the fields to which the tenant would not be entitled, and to which he probably would object, as an infringement of rights. Attention to drainage would fail, and the tenancy would be sufferers as well as the proprietors. Neither system has the general voice of the planters. Nothing but great independence of manual labour, by subsoil drainage, the use of the plough and cattle, or a very large influx of hands, so that the wages may be reduced still more than they are, will bring about that increase of produce sufficient to compensate for the continuance of low prices, expected as the result of the introduction of foreign and slave-grown sugars in the home market. Neither planter here, nor proprietor at home, have the courage or the capital necessary for the use of the plough; the only hope now is, in the introduction of large bodies of Africans at a cheap rate.

No. 2.—It appears to be the general opinion that education has not improved amongst the Creoles in proportion to their independent possession of property. The numbers attending schools, entered on the Blue Book, are fewer now than in 1838.

When we find that it has been difficult in the mother country to obtain proper teachers, we must not be surprised that their qualifications here are of a low grade. The last resort of a man who has failed in other attempts at earning his bread, is to become a schoolmaster.

The London Missionary Schools are vaunted by the ministers of that persuasion; they certainly are self-supporting.

Yet I see little improvement in the writing of the best of them; the petitions got up by the influence of the London Missionaries are as deficient in penmanship as formerly; the chief number of signatures is by cross, with their scholars as with those of other sects. I have had before me a petition to the Combined Court of this year, where the elders, signing after the minister, show miserable specimens of writing; the petitions I receive from labourers are generally marked with crosses, or, if signed, it is in the lowest grade of writing; if the petitions have the benefit of original writing, they present the most extraordinary jumble of bad orthography, grammar, penmanship, and composition that ever emanated from a human being, under the influence of education.

There is a radical defect, which the existence of so many creeds seems to uphold; there is aversion to inspection such as that contemplated by the newly appointed Inspector of Schools. This gentleman, whose presence here is officially notified to your Lordship in another Despatch, is to begin his visitation of all the schools receiving payment from the colony, and to report his views of their state and of the measures he would, after inspection, recommend to be adopted. I shall be glad if improvement can be suggested, coinciding with the systems of the various sects and churches of the colony.

Education.

2.

1848 8958.

1838, 11,580.

June quarter.

BRITISH GUIANA.

The allowance of head money from the Colonial Treasury is not sufficient to pay good teachers; there is great difficulty in obtaining contributions from the parents; and so soon as the pupils have obtained some smattering of reading and writing, those parents who do contribute take their children from school to bind them to trade, or for the purpose of having their services at home.

The minister of the London Missionary Society of New Amsterdam states, in Blue Book, p. 122, that he has established a normal school without other help than that of voluntary contribution, and thinks it oppressive that his followers should help to pay for other educational establishments.

No voluntary system would be generally successful; nor do I call those payments voluntary which are said to be so by its advocates. It is unnecessary for me to give my reasons for this my opinion, but they might be strongly maintained.

It will ultimately be expedient to establish a tax for educational purposes, as suggested by your Lordship's Despatch.

In page 120, Blue Book, may be read that the minister of the Dutch Reformed Church reports "No Schools;" this is unfortunate, or highly reprehensible; there was a large flourishing school at Fort Island, with a curate resident, when the district was in the hands of the episcopalians.

In the interest of the scattered inhabitants of the islands and banks of the Essequibo, I desired to prevent the Church of Fort Island from falling into other hands than those of the Church of England. The way in which it was transferred to the Dutch Reformed Church is on record at the Colonial Office. In the present stage of my career in the administration of this Government, it would be useless for me to enter into a discussion which I could not bring to a conclusion. I draw your Lordship's attention to the fact, the duty of amending it must devolve on my successor.

The variety of sects in British Guiana does not contribute to the probable unity of a plan of education. The Church of England adheres to that of the National Society; the Presbyterians to their own; the Wesleyans their own; the London Missionaries, the Lancasterian, the Roman Catholics, that of the Irish Board, Strongites, Wesleyan Episcopalians, Congregationalists, Plymouth Brethren have to be considered. It will require a man of great judgment to gain, as inspector of schools, the approbation or confidence of all.

An attempt was made by the Presbyterian minister at New Amsterdam to unite labour with study; it failed, though begun with zeal, and expensively maintained.

The emancipated negro has been so flattered, and his vanity so excited, that he scarcely yet understands his position in society. In the efforts made to verify emancipation, humility has been forgotten.

A marked change in the respectful demeanour of the population during the early years of emancipation, particularly in the younger of the Creole race, is perceptible. I have even found it necessary within the last twelve months to keep a patrol of mounted police on the road usually frequented for rides and drives of exercise by the inhabitants of George Town, to check the jeering and impertinent remarks of the loungers in the neighbourhood of the town, which have often been levelled at myself.

The negroes are a docile credulous race; repeated agitation and exhortation for the last three or four years have made them look to individuals as supporters, rather than the Executive or the magistrates; the press circulated lies amongst them, and held up the Government Officers to their hate; the peace of the colony has, however, been rarely disturbed, though I believe had not the outbreak at Leguan, reported in Despatch No. 192, date 18th September, 1846, been so promptly and resolutely put down, it would not have been the only display of violence. The agitators found they could not trifle with the Executive, and changed their course of action to libel and invective.

The language of the Creole is not improved; it is still intelligible to those only who have been long used to it; a clipping of words running one into the other, defects which it will require another generation to remedy. At the last census of George Town, there were 1000 females more than males; the population has much increased, and doubtless the same proportion continues, yet it is difficult to obtain efficient service for ordinary house work amongst the class thus in the majority. Sewing is particularly taught in Episcopalian and other schools, yet women rather buy their dresses ready made, or apply to a dress-maker, than attempt to make them.

¶ The filthy habits of the southern nations of Europe seem latterly to have gained ground here; for though the negro washes his person very carefully, yet it is very common to see people occupied in clearing each other's heads of vermin. I, however, confine myself to the lowest class in this my observation.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 3. The Blue Book gives the total of prisoners, page 145, of the different gaols of British Guiana; but the cases brought before the police magistrate or the Inspector General of Police are useful additions.

Crime.

There are now as many prisoners in George Town Gaol as there were in the early days of freedom of 1838, when the penal settlement did not exist; and now this establishment contains an equal number of prisoners, ranging from 100 to 160 and 170.

Enclosures, Nos. 2 and 3.

The other gaols of the colony remain pretty nearly as they began, showing that crime resorts to the capital and its neighbourhood, east and west. Annexed is return of trials before Supreme Court of Criminal Justice.

Enclosure No. 4.

Robberies of provision grounds and plantain walks swell the list of prisoners, and it is no uncommon thing to find the plunderer a man himself possessed of provision grounds and plantain walks. Cattle stealing has lately been common on the populous parts of the East Coast, Demerara. Pilfering is an inbred quality of the slave,—it has not yet been forgotten in the free man.

In George Town, petty thefts, indecent exposure of person, blaspheming, assaults, and quarrels, are the chief cases for the police magistrate. Higher crimes pass by the Inspector General of Police's Office to the High Sheriff, and thence to the superior tribunals.

The decrease of inmates of George Town Gaol, on which I had felicitated myself some six or seven months ago, and which then in number ranged from 60 to 100, have latterly increased as above expressed. It is the natural consequence of the late strike, and of the greater resort from the country districts of the idle and lazy. Many of the cases brought before the police magistrate (and all are submitted to my supervision) are of the most trifling sort. Even as low as three or four cents' worth of goods, and for the value of a small piece of fish, with money in his pocket, will the pilfering negro risk his liberty for six days' in hard labour, and perhaps if recidive, of fine, the non-payment of which subjects him to ten days more imprisonment without hard labour.

Burglaries have been latterly rare; the offenders, when such crimes have occurred, are sure to be discovered, convicted, and sent to the penal settlement. Details annexed.

Penal Settlement. Enclosures, Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.

No. 4. The Acting Chief Justice has furnished me with proof of the continued successful working of the new laws.

Courts of Civil Justice, &c., *vide* Report of Acting Chief Justice.

The Abolition of the Roll Courts has so shortened pleadings, that almost every Court Session disposes of its own causes: at the last, all received judgment except seven, which stand over to the May Term, at the desire of one or both of the suitors.

Enclosure No. 10, with Returns, (A), (B), (C), (D).

A list of the causes settled in the February Session is annexed to Mr. Arrindell's Report, which I have the honour to transmit. Sixteen matters of account are to be considered, but most of them will be settled before the May Session; and the net proceeds of all insolvent estates, with the exception of 13, which of great or less magnitude require judgment, have been marshalled and distributed, while of these 13 all the preferences have been paid. Only one point in regard to the rules of practice has been contested, the Chief Justice and the first Puisne Judge holding different opinions, the second Puisne agreeing with the Chief Justice.

One Roll Suit of long standing still remains.

The auditors of accounts, occupied in commerce, complain of not being sufficiently paid for their labour. Some remedy may be required to perfect that mode of deciding matters of accounts, which was formerly left to a servant of the Supreme Court.

Nothing, however, diminishes the value of the great public benefit derived from the reform of the civil laws. I am fortunate in having been its promoter; it is equally fortunate that the persevering labours of Mr. Arrindell were devoted to it.

By the information I forward to your Lordship, suitors in Europe will know how their causes stand, and I hope will no longer complain of the ruinous delays of the law in British Guiana.

No. 5. Administrator General.

BRITISH GUIANA.
Enclosure, No. 11.

In respect to this office I forward herewith a letter from the Acting Chief Justice, analysing the return of "Boedels," "Estates," the proceeds of which have been awarded for three years previous to the institution of Administrator General, and of three years succeeding this institution.

The despatch of the present system is contrasted with that of the Orphan Chamber;—the accumulation of years from the latter had to be cleared by the Administrator General, and he is rapidly doing so. A memorandum by the Administrator General is annexed to the list of estates from the Registrar's Office, which shows the labours of the Administrator General.

The constant publicity to which the Administrator General is subject, is the best guarantee for continuation of correctness hereafter.

It will be satisfactory to me, if my Despatch be considered of use.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

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Encl. 1 in No. 20.

Enclosure 1 in No. 20.

CHARGES by MORTGAGEES to SPECULATORS.

[Interest at the rate of 6 per cent. allowed by law, and compound interest on all arrears. From the Registrar's office.]

MORTGAGE vested on Plantation DE WILLIAM, executed 10th June, 1829.

Covenants, besides freight, insurance duty, and all other usual charges, to charge the following commissions on account of the estate:— $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on gross amount of sales of all produce; $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. del credere thereon, for guaranteeing the solvency of the purchasers; $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the amount insured; a commission of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the amount recovered from the underwriters; $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on invoices of supplies, or goods shipped; a commission for accepting and paying bills, or making other payments; $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. if paid in Glasgow or Liverpool, and of 1 per cent. if in London.

MORTGAGE vested on Plantation LE RESOUVENIR, executed on 1st July, 1829.

Covenants, besides freight, insurance duty, and all other usual charges, to charge the following commissions on account of the estate; $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on gross amount of sales of all produce; $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. del credere thereon, for guaranteeing the solvency of the purchasers; $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the amount insured; a commission of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the amount recovered from the underwriters; $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on invoices of supplies, or goods shipped; a commission for accepting and paying bills or making other payments; $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. if paid in Glasgow or Liverpool, and of 1 per cent. if in London.

MORTGAGE vested on Plantation WINDSOR CASTLE, executed on the 22nd July, 1829.

Covenants, to deduct from the net proceeds of sales the following charges in addition to their actual disbursements for insurance, freight, duty, dock rates, brokerage, &c. For effecting sales of produce, a commission of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on amount of sales; for guaranteeing sales, 1 per cent. on the amount; for effecting insurances, $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. commission on the amount of all losses, when recovered; and a commission of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on all monies paid or received, and to make all other charges usual and customary at the port of London.

STATE OF HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS. 147

MORTGAGE vested on Plantation AMERSFORT, executed on the 22nd July, 1829.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Covenants, to deduct from net proceeds of such sales the following charges, in addition to their actual disbursements for insurance, freight, duty, dock rates, brokerage, &c. For effecting sales of produce, a commission of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on amount of sugar sold; for guaranteeing sales, 1 per cent. on the amount; for effecting insurances, $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. commission on the amount of all losses, when recovered; and a commission of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on all monies paid or received, and to make all other charges usual and customary at the port of London.

MORTGAGE vested on Plantation MALGRE-TOUT, executed on 25th July, 1829.

Covenants, $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on sales of produce; 1 per cent. for guaranteeing sales; $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for effecting insurance; $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. paying and receiving all monies; and further to make all other charges usual and customary at the port of London.

MORTGAGE vested on Plantations FELICITY and MONTROSE, executed on the 11th April, 1843.

Covenants, a commission of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on amount of insurance; to charge freight at the rate of 4s. per cwt.; a commission of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the gross amount of sales; and also a commission of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the same for guaranteeing the amount; and the usual charges as customary at the port of Glasgow; also, on supplies shipped, interest and customary commission of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. on payments.

MORTGAGE vested on Plantation GREENFIELD, executed on the 8th March, 1841.

Covenants, freight of 4s. per cwt. net weight at the Queen's beam; a commission of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for effecting sales; a commission of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for guaranteeing the debts of said sales; a commission of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. for effecting insurance; and all other charges usually charged on such shipments by the mortgagees.

Enclosure 2 in No. 20.

Encl. 2 in No. 20.

COPY of a LETTER from the POLICE MAGISTRATE of Georgetown to the GOVERNMENT SECRETARY.

Georgetown Police Office,
May 1, 1848.

SIR,

In compliance with the order of his Excellency the Governor, I have the honour to annex a return of the cases tried by me in the year 1847, with the number of the acquittals, convictions, and re-commitments during that period.

On comparing this with the corresponding return for 1846, I find an increase of convictions in last year to the amount of 175. Of these, however, 164 are re-committals of old offenders, thus leaving an excess of only 11 new convictions over those of the preceding year.

When the great access to our colonial population during that time is taken into consideration (and the refuse thereof, as usual, poured *quasi in sentinam* into the city), it will, no doubt, be a source of great gratification to his Excellency to find that numbers have not imported crime to any extent, but that, on the contrary, the calendar of offences is swelled up by the old delinquents, who are to be found, in a similar manner, in every large city in Great Britain, as well as in this colony.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) WILLIAM M'NULTY, LL.D.,
Police Magistrate of Georgetown.

The Honourable William Walker,
Government Secretary, British Guiana.

GEORGETOWN POLICE OFFICE.

CASES adjudicated by the POLICE MAGISTRATE of GEORGE TOWN, from January 1 to December 31, 1847.

Number of Prisoners.	Acquitted.	Condemned.	Re-committed.
January . . 228	January . . 95	January . . 133	January . . 3
February . . 257	February . . 107	February . . 150	February . . 6
March . . 274	March . . 92	March . . 182	March . . 5
April . . 231	April . . 89	April . . 142	April . . 4
May . . 224	May . . 93	May . . 131	May . . 11
June . . 243	June . . 104	June . . 139	June . . 7
July . . 224	July . . 114	July . . 110	July . . 10
August . . 202	August . . 119	August . . 83	August . . 32
September . . 221	September . . 134	September . . 87	September . . 25
October . . 213	October . . 106	October . . 107	October . . 25
November . . 172	November . . 107	November . . 65	November . . 18
December . . 212	December . . 95	December . . 117	December . . 18
2701	1255	1446	164

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Encl. 3 in No. 20.

Enclosure 3 in No. 20.

RECAPITULATION of PRISONERS arrested in the three Counties of BRITISH GUIANA, from 1st January to 31st December, 1847. Showing the number of Committals, those handed over for Trial, and those locked up for a night, and discharged after interrogation.

County.	Period.		Year.	Number of Prisoners arrested.	Number of Prisoners committed.	Handed over for Trial.	Locked up for a Night, and discharged after interrogation.
	From.	To					
Demerara . .	1 January	31 December	1847	7,629	2,213	1,116	4,300
Berbice . . .	,,	,,	,,	927	216	491	220
Essequibo . .	,,	,,	,,	490	..	316	174
Total three Counties . . .				9,046	2,429	1,923	4,694

A true Extract from Books of Record.

In absence of Inspector-General
gone to Berbice.} THOMAS HORNE,
Inspector Police.

Enclosure 4 in No. 20.

RETURN of CASES tried before the Supreme Court of CRIMINAL JUSTICE in and for the Counties of DEMERARA and ESSEQUIBO during the Year 1847.

Names.	Offence.	Date of Trial.	Verdict.	Sentence.	Remarks.
Henry Phillips	Assault and shooting .	26 Jan.	Guilty . .	Six months' imprisonment.	
Allan Cummins, Buchanan	Theft	2 Feb.	Not guilty.		
M'Hardy <i>alias</i> Duncan					
Buchanan, and Thomas					
Poole.					
Industry Joseph <i>alias</i> In-	Burglary and theft .	27 Jan.	Guilty . .	Five years' imprisonment, with	
dustry Mercurius.				hard labour.	
Jack Thomas <i>alias</i> Alex-	Manslaughter . . .	29 Jan.	Guilty . .	Twelve months' imprisonment,	
ander Hoola.				with hard labour.	
Thomas Austin	Rape	3 Feb.	Guilty . .	Imprisonment for ten years,	
				with hard labour.	
Samuel Fraser, William	Burglary and theft .	1 Feb.	Not guilty .	. . . . .	Nolle prosequi entered
Drake <i>alias</i> Stephen					against Joe Mattis.
Drake <i>alias</i> Stephen					
Henry, George Walk,					
and Joe Mattis.					
John Bell	Assault and battery .	5 Feb.	Guilty . .	Six months' imprisonment.	
John Bell	Assault and battery .	6 Feb.	Not guilty .		
James Austin, Peter	Burglary and theft .	28 Jan.	Guilty . .	Imprisonment for five years,	
Rainey, Peter Waldren,				with hard labour.	
John William Haynes,					
and					
Thomas Skeete			Not guilty.		
William Johnston . . .	Burglary and theft .	28 Jan.	Guilty . .	Imprisonment for two years,	
				with hard labour.	
James Paris	Assault and wounding.	4 Feb.	Guilty . .	Imprisonment for two years,	
				with hard labour.	
James Paris	Assault and wounding.	4 Feb.	Guilty . .	Six months' imprisonment,	
				with hard labour, to com-	
				mence on the expiration of	
				the sentence of two years'	
				imprisonment pronounced	
				against him this day.	
Alexander Crump . . .	Theft	8 Feb.	Guilty . .	Twelve months' imprisonment,	Nolle prosequi entered.
Alexander Crump . . .	Theft	8 Feb.	Guilty . .	with hard labour.	
Tom Gravesande and King	Burglary	13 Feb.	Guilty . .	Seven days' imprisonment, with	The Attorney-General
Abraham.				hard labour.	intimated that King
					Abraham had died in
					gaol since the indict-
					ment was served.
Tom Adam and Brutus	Assault and battery .	9 Feb.	Guilty . .	Tom Adam, three months' im-	
Harry.				prisonment, with hard la-	
				bour. Brutus Harry, six	
				months' imprisonment, with	
				hard labour.	
Beesoo, afterwards altered	Murder	10 Feb.	Guilty . .	Death	To be executed on 20th
to Bauseer.					March, 1847; August
					26th Sentence com-
					muted to Transporta-
					tion for life.
Sam Trim	Theft	13 Feb.	Guilty . .		Nolle prosequi entered.
Benjamin Cozier . . .	Burglary and theft .	4 Feb.	Guilty . .	Imprisonment for two years,	
				with hard labour.	
Warren Abraham and	Robbery	2 Feb.	Not guilty.		
James Bull.					

Return of Cases tried before the Supreme Court of Criminal Justice in and for the Counties of Demerara and Essequibo during the Year 1847—*continued.*

Names.	Offence.	Date of Trial.	Verdict.	Sentence.	Remarks.
Bristol Cambridge . . . Edwin Angel Wallbridge .	Theft Libel	13 Feb. 13 Feb.	. . . .	. . . . . . . . . .	Nolle prosequi entered. Trial postponed. June 30th, Nolle prosequi entered.
Stephen Drake, otherwise called Stephen Henry. Trial Nile	Larceny Assault, cutting and wounding.	20 April 21 April	Guilty . . Guilty . .	Imprisonment for three years, with hard labour. Imprisonment of seven years, with hard labour.	
January Hamilton, Polly Hamilton, and Moses Hendricks . . .	Highway robbery	22 April	Guilty . . Not guilty.	January Hamilton, imprison- ment for three years, with hard labour. Polly Hamil- ton, imprisonment for seven days.	April 23rd. In conse- quence of error in Pro- ceedings, the Attor- ney-General entered a Nolle prosequi as against Polly Hamil- ton.
Sam Moore Ned Brandes Quassie John	Rape Burglary and larceny . Burglary and larceny	23 April 24 April 27 April	Guilty . . Guilty . . Guilty . .	Transportation for life. Transportation for ten years. Twelve months' imprisonment, with hard labour.	
Toby Stevenson	Breaking into shop and larceny.	28 April	Guilty . .	Imprisonment for three years, with hard labour.	
Thomas Koker Sam Henry, otherwise called Cuffy Chance.	Stealing from the person Larceny	29 April 29 April	Guilty . . Guilty . .	Transportation for ten years. Transportation for seven years.	
Samuel Welch John Carter, otherwise called John Thomas. Corrydon Liverpool . .	Larceny Assault with intent to ravish. Assault and shooting with intent to murder.	29 April 20 April 20 April	Guilty . . Guilty . . Not guilty.	Transportation for seven years. Imprisonment for twelve months, with hard labour.	
John Thomas, otherwise called John Carter, other- wise called Charles Evans.	Assault and cutting and wounding policeman in execution of his duty.	21 April	Guilty . .	Imprisonment for three months, with hard labour; such sen- tence to commence at the expiry of the period for which he is now imprisoned.	
Manoel Rodrigues Mar- ques and Antonio Dos Reis.	Murder	26 April	Guilty . .	Manoel Rodrigues Marques, transportation for fifteen years. Antonio Dos Reis, transportation for seven years.	
Mandearallie	Murder	30 April	. . . . .	. . . . .	Trial postponed. June 30th, Nolle prosequi entered.
Thomas New Year . . .	Murder	23 April	Guilty of man- slaughter.	Transportation for ten years.	
Adam Quinless, otherwise called Adam Quintess. Roger Pier	Rape Stabbing, cutting, &c., with intent to maim.	24 April 24 April	Guilty . . Guilty . .	Transportation for life. Transportation for fifteen years.	
Mary Isles	Cutting, &c., with in- tent to do some grievous bodily harm.	24 April	Guilty of an assault.	Imprisonment for six months, one month of which to be kept in solitary confinement.	
Sylvester Jack, otherwise called Sylvius Jack, and Isaac Fortune. Warren Abraham and Thomas Poole.	Burglary and larceny . Burglary and larceny .	28 April 27 April	Not guilty . Guilty . .	. . . . . Warren Abraham, transporta- tion for seven years. Tho- mas Poole, transportation for seven years.	Isaac Fortune could not be found.
George Sealey	House-breaking and lar- ceny.	27 April	. . . . .	. . . . .	Trial postponed till next session. July 19th. Nolle prosequi entered.
Castello Crispin, and George William George Sealey	Stealing from the person Obtaining money by false pretences.	28 April 27 April	Guilty . . Not guilty.	Transportation for ten years.	Trial postponed till next session. July 19th. Nolle prosequi entered. Nolle prosequi entered.
Adam Quinless, otherwise called Adam Quintess. Mary Macauley	Rape on a girl under 12 and above 10 years. Felonious Homicide, manslaughter.	27 April 29 April	. . . . . Not guilty.	. . . . .
Ramasawmy	Sheep stealing	29 April	Guilty . .	Six months' imprisonment with hard labour.	
Gardner Abel	Burglary and larceny .	29 April	Guilty . .	Transportation for seven years.	
John Day Joachim Isaac Phillip Hendy Quamina Alexander . .	Robbery Robbery Manslaughter Rape	21 July 21 July 24 July 20 July	. . . . . Guilty . . Guilty of an assault.	. . . . . Imprisonment for six months. Imprisonment for three years with hard labour.	Nolle prosequi entered. Nolle prosequi entered.
Simon Neptune Mandearallie	Rape Murder	21 July 27 July 1848, 31 Jan.	Guilty . . Not guilty.	Transportation for ten years.	Postponed till ext ses- sion. Nov. 16. Post- poned till next session.
Maria de Jesus Lucas Midas, Joseph Dun- bar, and Joe Mutia.	Infanticide Highway robbery . . .	15 Nov. 22 July	Not guilty. Guilty . .	Joseph Dunbar and Joe Matis, each transportation for 15 years. Lucas Midas, im- prisonment for three years, with hard labour.	
James Richard Edwards . George Sealey	Manslaughter House-breaking and lar- ceny.	23 July 24 July	Not guilty. . . . . .	. . . . . . . . . .	Nolle prosequi entered.

REPORTS EXHIBITING THE PAST AND PRESENT

Return of Cases tried before the Supreme Court of Criminal Justice in and for the Counties of Demerara and Essequibo during the Year 1847—*continued*.

Names.	Offence.	Date of Trial.	Verdict.	Sentence.	Remarks.
George Sealey	Obtaining money by false pretences.	23 July	Guilty . .	Transportation for seven years.	
Stephen Drake, otherwise called Stephen Henry.	Breach of prison . .	20 July	Guilty . .	Imprisonment for five years with hard labour, to commence on the termination of the sentence, under which he is now imprisoned.	
Stephen Drake, otherwise called Stephen Henry.	Cutting and wounding.	20 July	Guilty . .	Imprisonment for three years with hard labour, to commence on the expiration of the sentence pronounced against the prisoner this day.	
Edward Grant Blacket and Thomas Simpson Pile.	Burglary and larceny .	24 July	Not guilty.		
John Herbert, otherwise called John James Herbert.	Burglary and larceny .	22 July	Guilty . .	Imprisonment for two years with hard labour.	
John Bovel	Assault and wounding .	21 July	Guilty . .	Imprisonment for two years with hard labour.	
Allick Foray and Pitt Dover	Burglary and larceny .	19 July	. . . .	. . . . .	Nolle prosequi entered against Allick Foray.
	. . . . .	21 July	Guilty . .	Imprisonment for two years with hard labour.	
Stephen Louis	Burglary with intent .	21 July	Not guilty.		
Cupido Heyliger . . .	Burglary and theft. .	21 July	Guilty . .	Transportation for seven years.	
Francisco de Menezes . .	Cutting and wounding.	24 July	Guilty . .	Imprisonment for six months.	
Francisco de Menezes . .	Assault	26 July	. . . .	. . . . .	Nolle prosequi entered.
Quammy Thomson . . .	Murder	11 Nov.	Guilty . .	Death	To be executed on 11th December, 1847. 1848, April 28th, sentence commuted to imprisonment, with hard labour for fifteen years, from 16th March, 1848.
Julio Antonio	Manslaughter	9 Nov.	Not guilty.		
Dickey, otherwise called Richard Appio.	Manslaughter	9 Nov.	Guilty . .	Imprisonment for three months.	
Phoenix Alert, otherwise called Quaco Phoenix.	Rape	9 Nov.	. . . .	. . . . .	Nolle prosequi entered.
Sam John, otherwise called Mucko Sam.	Rape	9 Nov.	Guilty of assault.	Imprisonment for three years with hard labour.	
John Tull	Assault and wounding.	9 Nov.	Guilty . .	Transportation for fifteen years.	
Corydon Liverpool . .	Robbery.	10 Nov.	Guilty . .	Transportation for ten years.	
Quaco, otherwise called Joseph Schoemaker.	Robbery.	10 Nov.	Not guilty.		
John Chester, otherwise called John Chichester.	Robbery	10 Nov.	Guilty of assault.	Imprisonment for three years, with hard labour.	
Idem	Robbery.	11 Nov.	. . . .	. . . . .	Nolle prosequi entered.
Smith John	Burglary and theft. .	10 Nov. 1848, 27 Jan.	. . . .	. . . . .	Postponed till next session.
			Guilty . .	. . . . .	Imprisonment for two years, with hard labour.
Profit Adonis and Samuel Middleburgh.	Burglary	10 Nov.	. . . .	. . . . .	Nolle prosequi entered.
Apow, otherwise called Appow.	Sheep stealing	10 Nov.	. . . .	. . . . .	Struck off the list, the prisoner having died on 23rd October, 1847.
Sam Trim, otherwise called Sam Stephen, otherwise called John William.	Larceny	12 Nov.	Not guilty.		
Austin Prince	Assault and battery .	12 Nov.	Guilty . .	Imprisonment for two years, with hard labour.	
Cæsar Julius, otherwise called Cæsar Smith, and	Conspiracy	12 Nov.	. . . .	. . . . .	Trial postponed till next session, 1848. February 4th, Cæsar Julius died in gaol.
Booker York, otherwise called Blucher York.	. . . . .	1848 2 Feb.	Guilty . .	Imprisonment for five years, hard labour.	
Andries Boatswain and Tyson Boatswain Davison.	Forgery	10 Nov.	. . . .	. . . . .	Nolle prosequi entered.

May 4, 1848.

W. H. CAMPBELL, Clerk of Court.

STATE OF HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS. 151

Enclosure 5 in No. 20.

BRITISH GUIANA.

(A.)—RETURN showing the NUMBER of PRISONERS received, or who were released or died at the PENAL SETTLEMENT, 1847.

Encl. 5 in No. 20.

Months.	Received.	Released.	Died.	Drowned.	
January .	24	21	..	..
February .	24	14	..	..
March .	9	19	..	1	Remaining from last year . . 156
April .	12	22	..	..	Received in 1847 . . . 187
May .	33	15	..	..
June .	3	6	..	..
July .	16	29	1	..	Released, died, &c. . . . 192
August .	16	12	..	..
September .	16	5	..	..	Remaining 31st December, 1847 151
October .	6	13	..	..
November .	19	20	1	..	
December .	9	12	1	..	
Total .	187	188	3	1	

(Signed) W. CRICHTON, Superintendent.

Enclosure 6 in No. 20.

Encl. 6 in No. 20.

(B.)—RETURN showing the Classification of Crimes and Offences for which Prisoners were sentenced to the Penal Settlement in 1847.

Months.	Murder.	Rape.	Theft.	Robbery.	Riot.	Cutting.	Assault.	Fraud.	Burglary and Theft.	Manlaughter.	Assault and Wounding.	Assault and Battery.	Receiving.	Assault, Cutting and Wounding.	Highway Robbery.	Stabbing and Cutting, with intent to Murder.	Burglary and Larceny.	Larceny.	Abusive Language and Escaping.	Military.	Totals.
January .	..	..	2	8	10	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
February .	..	1	9	..	..	..	2	..	7	1	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
March .	..	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
April .	..	..	10	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
May .	3	2	14	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	1	5	3	..	1	33
June .	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
July .	..	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	16
August .	..	1	2	..	..	..	3	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	3	..	2	..	..	2	16
September	1	..	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	16
October .	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
November	..	1	11	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	19
December	..	..	4	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	9
Totals .	4	5	98	10	10	1	17	2	8	1	3	3	1	2	4	1	7	4	1	5	187

(Signed) W. CRICHTON, Superintendent.

Enclosure 7 in No. 20.

Encl. 7 in No. 20.

(C.)—PENAL SETTLEMENT.

- RATIONS.—1. Plantains 16 to 20, according to size, weight full 3 lbs., and salt-fish 8 oz.
 2. Rice boiled and pressed, 6 lbs., and salt-fish 8 oz.
 3. Cassada bread 2 lbs., and salt-fish 8 oz.
 4. Yams and potatoes 4 lbs. 4 oz., and salt-fish 8 oz.

N.B.—A salt pork or salt beef ration of 6 oz. is issued twice every month, once in the day.

CULTIVATION.—Bread fruit trees 17 acres.

Yams 16 acres (failed).

Potatoes 4 acres.

Cassada 4 acres ripe, } 12 acres.
 8 acres, nearly ditto }

Plantains 14 acres.

NEW WING.—Cells 94, length 9 feet, breadth 4 feet 4 inches, height 12 feet.

(Signed) W. CRICHTON,
 Superintendent.

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152 **REPORTS EXHIBITING THE PAST AND PRESENT**

BRITISH GUIANA.

Enclosure 8 in No. 20.

Encl. 8 in No. 20.

(D.)—RETURN and Valuation of the Labour performed and Materials produced at the Penal Settlement in 1847.

		Dols.	Cents.
8,722	Feet, 2½ in. Green Heart Plank	1,744	40
46,833	„ 2 „ „	6,066	73
12,190	„ 1½ „ „	1,340	90
3,012	„ 3 „ „	632	52
3,500	„ G. H. Lathing	140	0
3,300	Wallaba Paling Staves	132	0
3,319	Pr. Hubaballi 1 in. boards	165	95
46	Tacuba Posts	15	33
597	G. H. Slabs	358	0
	A lot of refuse slabs	29	0
26	G. H. Beams 518 feet, at an average of 60 cents per foot	310	67
1,000	Ft. Crabwood Boards, 1 in	60	80
204	Ft. 2½ in. do. Plank	20	40
	Stone delivered	0	0
520	Tons whole Stone	693	34
208	„ broken Stone	416	0
	Labour and Provisions expended on the Lazaretto	653	9
	Labour and Materials in erecting seven Beacons for Pilot Office	102	0
	Labour expended on the Lands of Kalikoo in clearing a site for a proposed Military Post	90	0
	Total	12,961	13

Labour expended on the new stone prison now in progress of erection, viz.:—

1. In removing 17,800 cubic feet of earth and other hard substance, to obtain a solid foundation for the fabric.

2. In building upwards of 11,000 feet of masonry. The whole wing it is calculated, when completed, will contain nearly 40,000 cubic feet of masonry.

3. In hauling out of the bush, cutting and sawing the materials, making the shingles, and erecting, on cut stone pillars, a togie covering 6000 square feet. The upper part to be converted into a joiner's shop, the lower to receive timber, &c.

4. In the various agricultural operations specified under the head of cultivation in the Return marked C.

(Signed) W. CRICHTON,
Superintendent.

Encl. 9 in No. 20.

Enclosure 9 in No. 20.

(E.)—ANALYSIS of the Expenditure on account of the Penal Settlement, 1841 to 1847 inclusive.

Disbursements.	1841.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	1846.	1847.	Totals.
	Dol. Cts.	Dol. Cts.	Dol. Cts.	Dol. Cts.	Dol. Cts.	Dol. Cts.	Dol. Cts.	Dol. Cts.
Salaries'	1,877 76	7,690 47	12,170 70	11,244 20	11,199 72	11,324 0	11,993 75	67,500 60
Wages of Artificers	3,958 7	6,825 27	..	720 75	576 38	*	797 0	12,877 47
Vessel Hire, Freight, &c.	1,512 94	1,729 71	6,912 25	1,687 50	381 45	403 15	803 80	13,430 80
Materials, Provisions, &c.	5,804 22	13,034 21	6,349 25	10,137 55	8,611 65	13,844 75	5,980 40	63,762 3
Purchase of Vessels, Boats, &c.	144 0	125 0	1,512 35	203 25	..	1,746 20	..	3,730 80
Medicines, &c.	34 36	314 27	299 10	125 60	274 70	290 20	302 75	1,640 98
Tools	268 33	156 90	444 0	51 0	89 20	257 35	347 0	1,613 78
House Frames	3,570 0	..	300 0	..	..	..	..	3,870 0
Sundries.	166 50	240 82	79 70	163 70	91 55	65 65	161 20	989 12
Totals	17,356 18	30,116 65	28,067 35	24,333 55	21,224 65	27,931 30	20,385 90	169,415 58

* Included for this year in the Salaries.

Encl. 10 in No. 20.

Enclosure 10 in No. 20.

COPY of a LETTER from Acting Chief Justice ARRINDELL to Governor LIGHT.

SIR,

British Guiana, 14th April, 1848.

THE last session of the Supreme Court of Civil Justice having been closed on Monday the 10th instant, it affords me great pleasure to report to your Excellency as follows:—

1st. All the suits ripe for hearing, and placed on the February list, have been heard and determined, with the exception of seven, each of which was postponed to the next session of the Court, to be held in May, either at the request of both parties, or at the request of one of the parties and the consent of the other.

Documents (A) and
(B.)

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2ndly. The net proceeds of all insolvent estates lately in the Registry of Court have been marshalled and distributed, with the exception of 13; the preferences in these have been awarded, and the sums awarded paid out, and the causes preventing the disposal of the remaining funds of these estates, as contained in the column of remarks in the schedule annexed, are beyond the control of the Court.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Document (C.)

3rdly. There are only 16 matters of account to be considered and disposed of. From the insolvency of the parties, and the re-sales of the Plantations Vrouw Anna, and Malgré Tout, with the net proceeds of which the first five of these accounts are connected; and from the nature of the remaining 11, any delay in disposing of them, unless such delay should be very prolonged, is unimportant, and between this and the 1st of May one or other of the puisne judges and myself will examine these accounts, so that orders may be granted upon them when the court next meets.

Document (D.)

4thly. Since the presidency and chief justiceship of the late Mr. Wray, the business of the Court has never been in so satisfactory a state; and although in his time the suits for pleading were once all cleared off, even then there remained a great accumulation of business at the Roll Courts, which is not now the case.

5thly. The session of the Court in Berbice was closed in March last, the whole of the business being disposed of, with the exception of two suits, one of which was postponed to enable the assignee of an insolvent to intervene, and take over the proceedings, and the other at the request of the parties to the suit.

6thly. Since Ordinance No. 5 of the year 1846, containing the rules of practice, has come into operation, there has been only one contested point of practice, and in that case the Court was divided, the chief justice and the first puisne judge holding different opinions, and the second puisne judge agreeing with the chief justice.

In conclusion, I cannot avoid tendering to your Excellency, as I hereby do, my sincere congratulations, not only upon your having been the originator of the reforms in the civil law which have led to the above happy results, but on your having had the opportunity of yourself witnessing these results.

To his Excellency Governor Light,
British Guiana.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) WILLIAM ARRINDELL,
Acting Chief Justice.

(A.)

LIST of CAUSES set down for TRIAL at the SUPREME COURT of CIVIL JUSTICE of BRITISH GUIANA, at its Session appointed to be held in the City of Georgetown, on Monday the 7th February, 1848, and following Days.

Cause postponed from List of 3rd May, 1847.

No.	Plaintiff.	Defendant.	Days of Trial.	Date of Sentence
1	Harrison.—(Van Sirtema, Attorney-at-Law.)	Austin.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	7th February and following days.	

Causes postponed from List of 28th June, 1847.

2	Bilstein.—(Imlach, Attorney-at-Law.)	Executors Bilstein, deceased.—(Van Sirtema, Attorney-at-Law.)	7th February and following days.	
3	Executors Kirkwood, deceased.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Cameron, sen., and another.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-law.)	Ditto.	

Causes postponed from List of 22nd November, 1847.

4	Executors Kirkwood, deceased.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Cameron, sen.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	8th February and following days.	
5	Idem.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Cameron and others.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
6	Wishart.	Glen.—(Campbell, Attorney-at Law.)	Ditto.	
7	Fogelmark, Curator, <i>ad litem</i> S. E. Cowan (<i>pro Deo</i>). <i>Ex parte</i> .—(Imlach, Attorney-at-Law.)	Cowan	Ditto.	

No.	Plaintiff.	Defendant.	Days of Trial.	Date of Sentence
8	Imlach.	Glen.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	9th February and following days.	
9	Houel, by his Attorney, A. Vyfhuis —(Van Sirtema, Attorney-at-law.)	Administrator-General of Demerara and Essequibo, as Curator to Insolvent Estate of Boode, deceased.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
10	Trustees and Executors of Harrower, deceased, by their Attorney, James Forbes.—(Beete, Attorney-at-Law.)	Jacobs.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
11	W. and B. Hick.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	Barry.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	9th February and following days.	
12	Glen.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Alexander. — (Imlach, Attorney-at-Law.)	10th February and following days.	
13	Idem.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Idem.—(Imlach, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
14	Glen.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Wishart.	Ditto.	
15	Idem.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Alexander. — (Imlach, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
16	Idem.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Wishart.	11th February and following days.	
17	Idem.—Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Alexander. — (Imlach, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
18	Administrator-General of Demerara and Essequibo, representing Estate of C. Young, jun., deceased. — (Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Executrix of C. Young, senior, deceased.—(Van Sirtema, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
19	Idem, representing Estate of Jones, deceased.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Idem.—(Van Sirtema, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
20	Gibson	Executors Affleck, deceased. — (Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	12th February and following days.	
21	Robert M'Murray and Co.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	Winter and Preston.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	12th February and following days.	
22	Idem.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	Idem.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
23	Executors M'Turk, deceased.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	T. D. and A. Douglas, by their Attorney, James Stuart.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
24	Albony, by his Attorneys James Stuart and Alex. Macrae.—(Van Sirtema, Attorney-at-Law.)	Goring.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	14th February and following days.	
25	Landferman.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	Executor of J. J. Deeges, deceased — (Pollard, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
26	Wilson.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	Blake.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
27	Conway.—(Van Sirtema, Attorney-at-Law.)	Proprietors of Plantation Land of Plenty. — (Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
28	Briggs.—(Pollard, Attorney-at-Law.)	Oudkerk.—(Van Sirtema, Attorney-at-Law.)	15th February and following days.	
29	O'Donoghue. — (Beete, Attorney-at-Law.)	Dare.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
30	Idem.—(Beete, Attorney-at-Law.)	Idem.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
31	Glen, and as Executor of A. Glen, deceased. — (Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Alex. Wishart and Co.	Ditto	
32	Administrator-General of Demerara and Essequibo, representing Estate of Wm. Moore, deceased.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	Moore.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	16th February and following days.	

No.	Plaintiff.	Defendant.	Days of Trial.	Date of Sentence
33	S. M. Gilgeous and another, by their Attorney, Wm. Lyng.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	Proprietors of Plantation, Better Success.—(Van Sirtema, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
34	Cornfoot and Elmslie, by their Attorney, H. S. Bascome.	Macintosh, Cameron, and Co.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
35	Executrix, C. Young, sen., deceased.—(Van Sirtema, Attorney-at-Law.)	Jacobs.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
36	Blair and Manget	Idem.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	17th February and following days	
37	De Jonge.—(Van Sirtema, Attorney-at-Law.)	Leue.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
38	Simson.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Veitch.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
39	Elliot and Son, by their Attorney, H. Clementson.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Collymore and Forte.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
40	Grant, by his Attorneys, A. Duff and H. Watson.—(Watson, Attorney-at-Law.)	Forbes.—(Beete, Attorney-at-Law.)	18th February and following days.	
41	Administrator-General, representing Estate of M'Cormick, deceased.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Jones.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
42	Allen, Brothers, and Co.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	Austin.—(Beete, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
43	Acting Attorney-General.—(Imlach, Attorney-at-Law.)	Manuel Fereia.—(Pollard, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
44	Administrator-General of Demerara and Essequibo, representing Estate of G. E. Fraskini, and A. M. C. E. Fraskini, deceased.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	Reed.—(Pollard, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	

(B.)

LIST of CAUSES set down for Trial at the Supreme Court of Civil Justice of BRITISH GUIANA, at its Session appointed to be held in the City of GEORGETOWN, on the 7th day of February, 1848, and postponed to the Session appointed to commence on the 1st day of May, 1848.

- No. 1.
William Harrison v. Hugh William Austin.
(Van Sirtema.) (Forbes.)
- No. 2.
Exors. Jas. Kirkwood, deceased v. D. C. Cameron, proprietor Caulfield and
(Campbell.) Lochaber.
(Forbes.)
- No. 3.
Jacob Isaac De Fonge v. Frederick William Leue.
(Van Sirtema.) (Campbell.)
- No. 4.
Colin Simson v. H. G. Veitch.
(Campbell.) (Forbes.)
- No. 5.
R. R. Craig, Acting Attorney-General v. Manuel Fereia.
(Imlach.) (Pollard.)
- No. 6.
Administrator General of Demerara and v. John Reed.
Essequibo, representing Estate of G. F. (Pollard.)
Fraskini and A. M. C. E. Fraskini,
deceased.
(Forbes.)

(Signed) A. SCHRACK, Registrar.

Demerara, April 14, 1848.

BRITISH GUIANA. ROLL SUIT closed on the Registrar's List for the 7th February, 1848, and following Days.

Gavin Fullarton, representing late firm of Fullarton and M'Donald, v. Administrator-General, representing Estate of Moses Jacobs, deceased.

Demerara, 14th April, 1848.

(Signed)

A. SCHRACK, Registrar.

(C.)

LIST of ESTATES sold at Execution Sale, on the Net Proceeds, of which no Sentence of Judicium Preferentiæ et Concurrentiæ has been held by the Court.

Name of Estate.	Date of Sale.	Amount.	Remarks.
		Dollars.	
Hoff Van Holland . . .	10th June, 1836	44,000	In appeal. A dividend of 70 per cent. paid out to the preferent creditors by order of Court of 19th February, 1838, amounting to £9937.
Vrouw Anna	24th November, 1838.	145,000	Deficiency on original purchase not yet paid. Amount deposited by the sequestrators awarded to the preferent claimants by order of Court of 8th April, 1848, amounting to £69,368 17c.
	Resold 23rd March, 1847.	5,000	
Le Desir	10th February, 1841.	9,000	Deficiency on original purchase not yet paid. A dividend awarded to the preferent claimants by order of Court of 8th April 1849, amounting to £599 84c. Property of one of the securities has been attached for the deficiency on original purchase, and appeal therefrom still pending.
	Resold 8th March, 1843.	1,260	
Sans Souci. . . .	9th June, 1841	3,030	Preferent creditors awarded the amount of their claims in full by order of Court of 8th April, 1848, amounting to £394 47c. Sentence of Præ. et Con. awaiting the decision of appeal in Le Desir.
Ostend	12th October, 1842.	635	Balance of assets awarded in part of preferent claim by order of Court of 8th April, 1848, amounting to £42 41c. Sentence of Præ. et Con. awaiting the decision of appeal in Le Desir.
Peter's Hall	7th May, 1841	113,000	In debate. Deficiency on original purchase not yet paid. A dividend of 75 per cent. paid out to the preferent claimants by order of Court of 5th January, 1848, amounting to £15,788 55c.
	Resold 3rd November, 1847.	26,500	
Half Met-en-Meer Zorg .	19th January, 1843.	48,050	In debate.
Sophia	9th May, 1843	12,100	In debate. Preferent claimants (not in debate) paid in full by order of Court of 12th January, 1848, amounting to £407 99c.
Malgré Tout	4th October, 1843	114,000	In debate. Advertised to be resold.
Best Phoenix and Walter's Delight.	21st November, 1843.	41,000	Title deed of property sold, being in dispute.
Vauxhall and Westminster.	2nd November, 1846.	5,000	Preferent claimants paid in full by order of Court of 24th February, 1847, amounting to £445 11c. Sequestrators paid in full by order of Court of 13th December, 1847, amounting to £2930 42c. Sentence of Præ. et Con. in course of preparation.
Vryheid's Lust and Sheet Anchor.	21st December, 1846.	32,500	Dividend of 50 per cent. paid out to preferent claimants by order of Court of 14th June, 1847, amounting to £4603 92c. Sequestrators paid in full by order of Court of 13th December, 1847, amounting to £12,811 77c. Sentence of Præ. et Con. in course of preparation.
La Bonne Intention . .	26th January, 1848.	30,200	Statement to be prepared for the Court from 19th April to 18th May, 1848. First instalment of purchase-money not yet due.

A. SCHRACK, Registrar.

Colonial Registrar's Office, Demerara, 12th April, 1848.

(D.)

BRITISH GUIANA.

REPORTS of AUDITORS of ACCOUNTS waiting the Court's orders thereon.

Debates :—

- | | | | |
|---------|--|---|---------------------------|
| No. 43. | Hans Blackwood Hamilton |) | Plaintiff and Debattant. |
| | <i>versus</i> | | |
| | W. R. Boeddart and others |) | Defendants and Debattees. |
| No. 44. | Hans Blackwood Hamilton |) | Plaintiff and Debattant. |
| | <i>versus</i> | | |
| | R. A. Deperpigna |) | Defendant and Debattee. |
| No. 45. | W. L. Hamilton and Co. |) | Plaintiff and Debattants. |
| | <i>versus</i> | | |
| | R. A. Deperpigna |) | Defendant and Debattee. |
| No. 46. | W. S. Hamilton and Co. |) | Plaintiff and Debattants. |
| | <i>versus</i> | | |
| | W. R. Boeddart and others |) | Defendant and Debattees. |
| No. 47. | S. H. Goodman |) | Respondent. |
| | <i>versus</i> | | |
| | John Campbell, Senior, and Co. |) | Appellants. |
- Administrator-General Demerara and Essequibo, representing estate of Dr. John Waddell, deceased
- versus*
- The Heirs of Waterton, deceased.
- No. 6. On accounts of A. Pearson, guardian of the minor, J. C. Thierens.
 7. Ditto of the sequestrators of plantation La Bonne Intention.
 8. Ditto of Ad.-General of Demerara and Essequibo, guardian of the minor Imes.
 10. Ditto of ditto of ditto, guardian of the minor Grant.
 11. Ditto of ditto of ditto, guardian of the minor J. R. Timmerman.
 12. Ditto of ditto of ditto, guardian of the minor J. Timmerman.
 13. Ditto of ditto of ditto, guardian of the minors Collymen.
 14. Ditto of ditto of ditto, guardian of the minors Marlton.
 15. Ditto of ditto of ditto, guardian of the minor M. Timmerman.
 16. Ditto of ditto of ditto, guardians of the minors Dagg.
 17. Ditto of the executors of George Johnston, deceased, and the guardians of the minor Elizabeth Johnston.

Demerara, 14th April, 1848.

(Signed)

A. SCHRACK, Registrar.

Enclosure 11 in No. 20.

Encl. 11 in No. 20.

COPY of a LETTER from Acting Chief Justice ARRINDELL to Governor LIGHT.

SIR,

Guiana Public Buildings, May 2, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to enclose to your Excellency the following documents :—

(A).—Return of the Registrar of the Supreme Court of Civil Justice in and for the counties of Demerara and Essequibo, showing the number of estates (boedels), the proceeds of which have been awarded and paid out for the three years preceding the institution of the Administrator-General's Office in these counties.

(B).—Return of the same officer, showing the number of estates (boedels), the proceeds of which have been awarded and paid out for the years (say three) succeeding the institution of the Administrator-General's Office in and for the same counties.

(C).—Return of the same officer, showing the number of plantations sold at execution sale, the proceeds of which have been awarded and paid out for the three years preceding the institution of the Administrator-General's Office in the same counties.

(D).—Return of the same officer, showing the number of plantations sold at execution sale, the proceeds of which have been awarded and paid out for the three years succeeding the institution of the Administrator-General's Office in the same counties.

(E).—Report of the Administrator-General of Demerara and Essequibo to your Excellency, showing—

1st. The number of estates of insolvent, deceased, and unrepresented persons which have devolved on him to be administered since the institution of his office, say from the 18th February, 1845, to the 18th February, 1848.

2nd. The number of these estates which have been closed.

3rd. The amount of money paid out by him during the same period.

4th. The number of guardianships under his administration during same period.

5th. The number of guardianships which have been closed by him.

6th. The amount of money paid out to his wards.

From these Returns it will appear—

1st. That for the three years preceding the institution of the Administrator-General's Office, the number of estates (boedels) closed by the Court were thirty-nine, and the aggregate amount of funds distributed was 42,392 dols. 57c., or 8831*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*

Y

BRITISH GUIANA.

- 2nd. That during the same period, the number of estates (boedels) closed by the Board of Orphans and Unadministered Estates cannot be ascertained, but the sum of 26,653 dols. 48c., or 5552*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.* only was paid out or distributed.
- 3rd. That the number of estates, including guardianships, under the administration of the Administrator-General during the three years that office has been in existence, were 722, of which 352 have been closed, the aggregate amount of funds distributed being 304,293 dols. 84c., or 63,392*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.*
- 4th. If it be said that this large sum includes the sum of 38,191 dols. 33c., amount of closed estates and balances received by the Administrator-General from the Court, yet, exclusive of that amount, the Administrator-General has paid out during his three years the sum of 266,092 dols. 51c., or 55,435*l.* 18*s.* 9½*d.*, being 223,762 dols. 94c., or 46,604*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.* more than the Court paid out during a like period. Adding the amount distributed by the Board of Orphans and Unadministered Estates, during the three years preceding the 18th February, 1845, to the amount paid out by the Court during the same period, it will be seen that the Administrator-General, during his three years, has paid out and distributed 197,046 dols. 46c., or 41,051*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.* more than both the Court and the Board of Orphans and Unadministered Estates paid out for the corresponding period prior to the 18th of February, 1845. These facts, which cannot be controverted, prove the great benefits that have accrued to the public by the abolition of the old, and the introduction of the new, system.

I cannot conclude without remarking—

- 1st. That the reason the estates in the Administrator-General's Office were so numerous is, that many of them were upwards of twenty years standing, having lain dormant either in the Court of Justice or the Board of Orphans and Unadministered Estates, without any the slightest notice being taken of them.
- 2nd. That with the exception of the guardianships, which must continue until the minors become of age, all the estates in the Administrator-General's Office are in progress of liquidation, and in the course of twelve or eighteen months the greater number of them will be closed.
- 3rd. That the number of new estates will be by no means so great as the number at present under administration, for, as I have already stated, the very large number appearing in the Administrator-General's return was occasioned by an accumulation for years.

His Excellency Governor Light,
British Guiana.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) WILLIAM ARRINDELL.
Acting Chief Justice.

(A.)

NUMBER of ESTATES (BOEDELs), the proceeds of which have been awarded and paid out for the Three Years preceding the creation of the Administrator-General's Office.

Number.	Name of Estate.	Date of first and last Deposit in the Registry of Court.	Date of Sentence of Præ. et Con.	Amount paid out.	
				Dols.	Cts.
1	Allicock . . . Estate of	3rd Nov. 1836	8th March 1842	5917	82
2	Estwick, Richard . . . "	15th April 1839	8th Jan. . .	490	18
3	Doyle, Martin . . . "	30th Oct. 1837	11th March 1843	94	75
4	Ham, J. A. . . . "	11th Jan. 1839	. . . . .	49	47
5	Cart, M. L. . . . "	{ 10th Nov. 1840 27th March 1843 21st May 1840 24th June 1841 }	. . . . .	2093	70
6	Brock, William . . . "	{ 10th Nov. 1840 27th March 1843 21st May 1840 24th June 1841 }	. . . . .	180	42
7	Van Beusekom, J. H. . . . "	11th Feb. 1839	. . . . .	21	84
8	Barry, Thos. Edw. . . . "	23rd Nov. 1837	. . . . .	200	08
9	Richards, William . . . "	{ 21st Oct. 1835 13th Jan. 1841 5th May 1838 12th Dec. 1842 25th Jan. 1841 31st March 1842 }	. . . . .	1871	10
10	Puleston, Thomas . . . "	{ 5th May 1838 12th Dec. 1842 25th Jan. 1841 31st March 1842 }	. . . . .	1899	60
11	Telfer, Martha Ann . . . "	{ 5th May 1838 12th Dec. 1842 25th Jan. 1841 31st March 1842 }	. . . . .	112	24
12	M'Gowan, Janette . . . "	17th Aug. 1843	19th Aug. . .	228	63
13	Robertson, Robert . . . "	10th Oct. 1840	. . . . .	1602	19
14	Wahl, Elizabeth "	23rd June 1843	. . . . .	146	50
15	Buttevant, William . . . "	12th Nov. 1842	. . . . .	235	0
16	Hilleman, O. "	30th May 1843	8th Jan. 1844 .	15	79
17	Jones, Owen "	11th Oct. . . .	. . . . .	53	33
18	Eyman, George "	15th April . . .	. . . . .	174	94
19	Van Twist, H. D. . . . . "	. . . . .	. . . . .	458	54
20	Maxwell, James "	22nd Aug. 1843	. . . . .	22	92
21	Hosack, Pomelia "	5th April	777	75
22	Behrends, Christopher . . . "	{ 15th April 1843 14th Oct. 1843 }	691	49

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Number of Estates (Boedels), &c.—*continued*.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Number.	Name of Estate.	Date of first and last Deposit in the Registry of Court.	Date of Sentence of Præ. et Con.	Amount paid out.	
				Dols.	Cts.
23	Barkey, D. J. C.	22nd Aug. 1843	. . . . .	50	396
24	Tapin, Maria	12th April	9th April	220	550
25	Shultz, Otto Louis	{ 14th Sept. 1842 } 16th Jan. 1843	. . . . .	2761	58
26	Collymore, P. Forte	18th Nov. 1839	2nd April 1844 17th June 1844	1637	43
27	Okey, J. H. S.	23rd Aug. 1843	2nd April 1844	18	81
28	Fraser, Magdalene	3rd July . . . . .	. . . . .	5297	37
29	Fraser, George	{ 13th Jan. 1841 } 16th Jan. 1841	2nd April 17th June	8209	50
30	Kernan, W. W.	14th Nov. 1843	. . . . .	411	72
31	Butts, John	10th Aug. 1843	. . . . .	124	74
32	Davidson, Andrew	4th Feb. 1842	. . . . .	85	62
33	Clarke, Elizabeth	{ 8th March 1843 } 17th June 1844	3rd Aug.	1379	58
34	Padmore, R.	5th Oct. 1843	. . . . .	284	77
35	Leonard, C. W.	13th Nov. 1843	. . . . .	233	78
36	M'Donald, Alexander	2nd April 1844	15th Feb. 1845	137	96
37	Snock, Edward	6th Jan. 1844	. . . . .	10	4
38	Richardson, William	13th May 1844	. . . . .	380	18
39	Day, Charles	{ 13th Nov. 1843 } 4th June 1844	. . . . .	1371	75

Registrar's Office, Demerara,
18th April, 1848.

A. SCHRACK, Registrar.

(B.)

NUMBER of ESTATES (BOEDELs), the Proceeds of which have been awarded and paid out for the Three Years succeeding the creation of the Administrator-General's Office.

No.	Name of Estate.	Date of first and last Deposit in the Registry of Court.	Date of Sentence of Præ. et Con.	Amount paid out.	
				Dols.	Cts.
1	De St. Felix, T. B. D. . . Estate of	{ 17th June 1844 } 17th April 1845	13th June 1845	2786	75
2	Game, Elizabeth.	{ 2nd Dec. 1843 } 14th Feb. 1845	. . . . .	4959	02
3	Fraser, James	6th June 1844	. . . . .	632	46
4	Dodd, Aubrey	3rd Dec. 1844	. . . . .	1505	19
5	Heyliger, Rebecca . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	126	53
6	Walcott, Francis Pierce	26th Sept. . . . .	. . . . .	1124	38

Registrar's Office, Demerara, 18th April, 1848.

A. SCHRACK, Registrar.

(C.)

NUMBER of PLANTATIONS sold at Execution Sale, the Proceeds of which have been awarded and paid out, for the Three Years preceding the creation of the Administrator-General's Office.

No.	Name of Plantation.	Date of Sale.	Date of Sentence of Præ. et Con.	Amount paid out.	
				Dols.	Cts.
1	Vrees-en-Hoop	3rd Oct. 1839	20th June 1842	173,542	04
2	New Bee Hive	25th May 1841	11th March 1843	55,116	44
3	Cullen	6th Oct. 1841	. . . . .	72,292	19
4	Mon Bijou.	5th Dec. 1842	8th Jan. 1844	4,629	37
5	Diamond	23rd March 1842	. . . . .	1,260	
6	Strathaven	9th Nov. 1842	17th June	6,116	73
7	Industry	20th April 1843	. . . . .	38,000	
8	Retrieve	12th May 1843	. . . . .	22,500	
9	Philadelphia	14th Sept. 1843	3rd Aug.	2,137	57
10	Chantilly	6th April 1843	. . . . .	6,554	67

Registrar's Office, Demerara, 18th April, 1848.

A. SCHRACK, Registrar.

BRITISH GUIANA.

(D.)

NUMBER of PLANTATIONS sold at Execution Sale, the Proceeds of which have been awarded and paid out for the Three Years succeeding the creation of the Administrator-General's Office.

No.	Name of Plantation.	Date of Sale.	Date of Sentence of Præ. et Con.	Amount paid out.	
				Dols.	Cts.
1	Ann's Grove and Two Friends	5th June 1844	13th June 1845	3,550	
2	Prosperity, C. Imtroff's, $\frac{1}{2}$	4th Oct. 1843	. . . . .	1,200	
3	Ditto, Mrs. S. C. Dodgson's, $\frac{1}{2}$	7th Feb. 1844	. . . . .	605	
4	Sans Souci (Wakenaany)	28th April 1843	1st Sept.	18,500	
5	John Cove, and Craig Milne	11th Oct. 1842	17th April 1846	81,514	28
6	Hibernia	1st May 1843	. . . . .	24,599	53
7	New Hope	23rd Nov. 1843	. . . . .	3,200	93
8	Java and Recht Door Zee	13th June 1843	19th June	7,362	35
9	Maryville	8th Aug. 1844	. . . . .	19,227	42
10	Thomas	31st May 1844	. . . . .	32,371	91
11	Vive La Force	2nd Feb. 1843	. . . . .	67,264	32
12	Belmont	27th Nov. 1844	. . . . .	11,694	23
13	Ostend	7th April 1845	. . . . .	580	83
14	Walton Hall	5th May 1845	. . . . .	8,438	51
15	Non Pareil	8th May 1845	. . . . .	56,602	21
16	Sans Souci (Canal No. 1)	9th June 1845	. . . . .	No Assets.	
17	Belle Plaine	27th April 1843	26th Feb. 1847	15,195	28
18	Kitty	9th June 1846	14th June 1847	14,575	87
19	Good Hope	9th May 1845	. . . . .	1,038	27
20	Fellowship	15th Dec. 1845	6th July	6,004	46
21	Den Amstel	26th Nov. 1838	26th Nov. 1847	26,068	14

Registrar's Office, Demerara, 18th April, 1848.

A. SCHRACK, Registrar.

(E.)

REPORT to His Excellency the GOVERNOR, from the ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL of Demerara and Essequibo.

Administrator-General's Office,
Demerara and Essequibo, 29th April, 1848.

No. 1.—There devolved to the administration of the Administrator-General of Demerara and Essequibo, estates of insolvent or deceased parties from 18th February, 1845, to 18th February, 1848, the number of 614.

Of these estates there have been closed during said period	339
Leaving still depending	275

614

In the administration of these estates, the Administrator-General has paid out the sum of 284,745 dols. 88 c., "Two hundred and eighty-four thousand seven hundred and forty-five dollars eighty-eight cents."

No. 2.—There devolved to the administration of the Administrator-General of Demerara and Essequibo, during the same period, guardianships numbering 118.

Of which there have been closed	13
Leaving still depending	105

118

In the administration of these guardianships the Administrator-General has paid out balances in his hands, in settling with wards, to the amount of 19,537 dols. 96 c., "Nineteen thousand five hundred and thirty-seven dollars and ninety-six cents."

It is proper to mention, that in the above number of 614 estates there is included a number of 109, in which the administration was apparently closed by the Court of Justice or Board of Orphans, but which were taken over by the Administrator-General for the purpose of finally disposing of, or depositing the balances remaining on hand, and which estates therefore appear in his book as so many administrations.

It is proper further to state, that the foregoing sum includes the amounts of the closed estates just referred to, and which amount in toto to the sum of 38,191 dols. 33 c., "Thirty-eight thousand one hundred and ninety-one dollars thirty-three cents."

It is proper to mention also, that no notice is taken above of the administration of plantations under sequestration. The prices of these properties, when sold, do not come into the hands of, or fall under the administration of, the Administrator-General.

MEMORANDUM.—It appears from the books of the late Board of Orphans and unadministered estates, that during the three years prior to the appointment of an Administrator-General of Demerara and Essequibo, the number of estates devolving to said Board was 103.

The number of estates closed during the period aforesaid cannot be ascertained, but the amount paid out by the said Board, during the three years mentioned, relating to all estates under its administration, was 26,653 dols. 48 c., "Twenty-six thousand six hundred and fifty-three dollars forty-eight cents."

1st May, 1848.

JOHN KENNEDY,
Administrator-General of Demerara and Essequibo.

HONDURAS.

HONDURAS.

No. 21.

(No. 30.)

No. 21.

COPY of a DESPÂTCH from Governor the Right Hon. Sir C. E. GREY to Earl GREY.

King's House, Jamaica,
October 5, 1848.

Honduras Blue
Book, 1847.

No. 47, Aug. 10,
1848.

MY LORD,

(Received November 8, 1848.)

I HAVE the honour to lay before your Lordship the Blue Book of Honduras for the year 1847, together with a copy of an accompanying letter from Her Majesty's Superintendent of the settlement, containing some information which had been called for by your Lordship, and other interesting details of the existing and actual constitution of the Public Meeting. No commentary on my part can be required to convince your Lordship of the imperfection of the institutions by which the settlement is regulated.

By the next packet I hope to forward the general report to which reference is made in the Superintendent's letter.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) C. E. GREY.

Enclosure in No. 21.

Encl. in No. 21.

(No. 47.)

Government House, Belize, B. Honduras,
August 10, 1848.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Book of this settlement for the year 1847.

On most of the topics embraced in the Book itself I have offered such observations in the report that accompanies it as have suggested themselves to my mind; but there is one point which I propose to consider more at length in the present Despatch, my attention having been specially directed to it by the remarks of Earl Grey on my report of last year. I have been desirous to state for how long a period the members of the Public Meeting are chosen, and what is the form of election.

The form of election is very simple; any one being desirous of being elected, addresses a letter to a member of the Public Meeting, accompanied by a statement in detail of his qualification, that he is a British born subject, a resident settler, and with 300*l.* sterling after the payment of his just debts. The member to whom application has been made, then writes to the Provost Marshal-General requiring him to open a poll, which poll is kept open for seven days. If 25 registered voters record their vote in his favour, the candidate is declared duly elected. No votes adverse to the candidate can be recorded. Finally, before taking his seat in the meeting, the newly-elected member must swear that he is in possession of the qualifications required by law.

Those who are elected to the Public Meeting continue to be members of that assembly for life. An absence for any length of time from the settlement would not impair their right to resume their seats in the Meeting on their return. This privilege had, I believe, its origin in the circumstance of the Public Meeting having been formerly for a long period a meeting of all the inhabitants. In consequence of the original constitution of this body, Her Majesty's Superintendent has not the power to dissolve the Public Meeting, a circumstance productive of the greatest public inconvenience, as well as placing great and peculiar difficulties in the way of the executive. About 30 years since, the constitution of the Public Meeting was changed, a resolution having been adopted by it to admit those only as members who were in the possession of certain defined qualifications. At the same period an electoral body was established. The Public Meeting of the inhabitants was thus transformed into a sort of select vestry. The number of the members is unlimited; the effect of which has been to produce a greater number of members than voters. In corroboration of this statement, I would observe that there are 64 members of the Public Meeting, and 59 voters. Of these 64 members only 33 are voters. This is occasioned by a loss of the pecuniary qualification which many of the members have sustained since they were elected, without which, at the time

For Lord Grey's
Despatch, Nov. 2,
1847, *vide* Annual
Reports on the
Colonial Blue Books
for 1846. Presented
to Parliament by Her
Majesty's Command,
July 1847, p. 117.

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they were chosen, they could not have been returned. The dispossession of this qualification does not operate as a forfeiture of their seats. The result is, that there are at present certain members of the Public Meeting who not only have not the pecuniary qualification which the law requires a member of that Meeting to possess, but who are not even qualified to register their names as voters, to accomplish which, by a recent regulation, the constituent body are obliged, once in every three years, to appear before the Grand Court, and to make an oath that they are still in possession of 60*l.* sterling after payment of their just debts. Failing to do so, their names are erased from the list of voters.

I take this opportunity of expressing my concurrence in that part of a Memorial recently addressed to the Secretary of State, in which his Lordship is requested to remodel the Public Meeting. The Public Meeting, as at present constituted, does not nor cannot represent the interests of the inhabitants generally, now amounting to 15,000 persons, one-third of whom I believe to be foreigners, and, as such, excluded from electoral and other political privileges. I should, indeed, infinitely prefer the old system of making the Public Meeting a public meeting of the inhabitants at large, without any restrictions whatever as to country, race, length of residence, or pecuniary qualifications, to that which at present exists, which is, in point of fact, an oligarchy.

The real governing body consists of five or six mahogany houses in Belize, whose operations are almost entirely dependent on certain other houses in London, who have usually a managing partner here. These establishments, not confining their operations to cutting mahogany and logwood on their own lands, but supplying another class of persons, called mahogany cutters, with goods, to enable them to pay their labourers, which latter, for the most part, receive nothing but goods in exchange for their labour. These cutters, thus disbursed, as it is termed, supply the merchant with a certain quantity of wood, and a running account is kept up between them, much to the advantage, I believe, of the latter party, the former, for the most part, being men without capital, and, consequently, obliged to submit to their employers' terms. Much more might be written on this subject, but the outline I have furnished will sufficiently enable your Excellency to judge why it is that the mahogany merchants are paramount in the Public Meeting, that body being mainly composed, with the exception of the public officers, of mahogany cutters, mahogany measurers, and mechanics, men with little or no education, well intentioned, I believe, but relying for their advancement in life on the few London and Belize merchants whose dependents, for the most part—I say it not offensively—they really are.

These merchants, already masters of the legislative body, are the persons who have been recently supplicating Her Majesty's Government to be invested with the executive power also, which would be an anomaly in Government, and productive of the greatest evils.

I have given much thought and attention to this subject during my residence here, and should have much to say on it were your Excellency desirous of submitting to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies a plan for the formation of a legally-constituted government in British Honduras.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) C. ST. JOHN FANCOURT.

His Excellency Sir C. E. Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 22.

(No. 33.)

No. 22.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor the Right Hon. Sir C. E. GREY to Earl GREY.

King's House, Jamaica, October 20, 1848.

(Received November 23, 1848.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to lay before your Lordship a copy of the general report of the Superintendent of Honduras as to the state of the settlement which it was intended should accompany the Blue Book of the settlement for 1847, but of which there was not time enough to make a copy for the packet by which the Blue Book was transmitted.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c.

(Signed) C. E. GREY.

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REVENUE and EXPENDITURE.

HONDURAS.

IN my last report I supplied a statement of the revenue and expenditure from 1834 to 1846 inclusive. On re-consulting the Blue Books, however, I have discovered that up to the 31st of December, 1837, the value of the dollar in those records was calculated at 4s. 2d. In the statement of the revenue and expenditure from 1830 to 1847 inclusive, subjoined, it is throughout assumed that the value of the pound sterling is five dollars.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the Revenue and Expenditure of British Honduras from 1830 to 1847 inclusive, in sterling Money, at Five Dollars to the Pound.

REVENUE.				EXPENDITURE.			
Years.		Pounds Sterling.		Years.		Pounds Sterling.	
		£.	s. d.			£.	s. d.
1830		14,931	11 6	1830		13,278	6 2
1831		11,712	8 11	1831		11,525	15 0
1832		14,050	5 11	1832		16,997	18 10
1833		12,732	2 5	1833		14,113	15 8
1834		14,706	0 0	1834		14,241	10 2
1835		16,860	3 3	1835		13,915	9 2
1836		17,799	14 1	1836		12,771	17 8
1837		13,945	12 3	1837		13,770	5 5
1838		15,739	7 2	1838		16,592	10 4
1839		13,752	15 4	1839		15,970	15 1
1840		12,246	5 3	1840		12,537	8 5
1841		13,880	3 8	1841		12,695	17 0
1842		12,515	7 10	1842		13,459	8 10
1843		17,229	0 5	1843		14,920	17 6
1844		17,370	1 11	1844		14,162	7 7
1845		22,372	10 0	1845		18,302	3 8
1846		21,667	5 10	1846		19,200	7 1
1847		16,679	0 3	1847		21,809	0 4

A return is annexed, showing the amount of revenue collected in 1847, and the sources from which it has been derived; as compared with that collected in 1846, there is a decrease of 4988*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.* This is partly accounted for by the duty on spirits having been reduced in 1847 from 4*s.* to 2*s.*, which would appear to have made a difference in the revenue, under this head alone, of 3574*l.*

As compared with 1846, there has been also a considerable falling off in the importation of wine, and of malt liquor and cider, and a less amount of tonnage dues received. The subjoined details will explain this matter more clearly.

COMPARATIVE REVENUE derived from the Duties on Spirits, Wines, Malt Liquor, and Tonnage, during the Years 1846 and 1847.

1846.				1847.			
		£.	s. d.			£.	s. d.
Spirits, at 4 <i>s.</i> per gallon .		6319	8 3	Spirits, at 2 <i>s.</i> per gallon .		2745	19 0
Wines, at 2 <i>s.</i> ditto . .		1034	10 0	Wines, at 2 <i>s.</i> ditto . .		401	0 3
Malt Liquor and Cider, at 1 <i>s.</i> per doz.		834	17 9	Malt Liquor and Cider, at 1 <i>s.</i> per doz.		324	7 0
Tonnage, 2 <i>s.</i> per ton . .		3058	8 0	Tonnage, 2 <i>s.</i> per ton . .		2333	18 0

On the other hand, an increased revenue would appear to have been derived from spirit licenses; the amount collected in 1846 having been 690*l.*, that in 1847, 1215*l.*

From an alteration in the mode of collecting the tax of one per cent. *ad valorem* on unrated articles, the revenue derived from it in 1847 has been a little more than that collected in 1846, although the imports were less in the former than during the last-mentioned year.

The expenditure for 1847 has exceeded the revenue for the same year by 5130*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*, and it has exceeded the expenditure of 1846 by 2608*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.* It will be observed, however, that the very large sum of 7023*l.* has been expended in public works during the year 1847, the probability of which expenditure I intimated in my report of last year; but notwithstanding, this occurring during a year in which the revenue had been materially diminished, owing to circumstances which I have already explained, a balance was still to the credit of the public, on the 31st December last, of 6952*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.*

HONDURAS.

IMPORTS and EXPORTS.

The imports for 1847 amount to 281,458*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.*

	£.	s.	d.
From Great Britain	212,039	18	7
„ West Indies	1,457	8	0
„ United States	66,291	15	6
„ Foreign States	1,669	8	0

The nature of these imports are much the same as in former years. The aggregate amount, however, appears to have been larger in 1847 than in 1846, but, as I explained in my last Report, no accurate estimate of the imports are to be collected from the Blue Book of 1846.

Subjoined is a comparative statement of the principal exports during the years 1846 and 1847.

Exports.

	1846.	1847.
Mahogany	9,567,570 feet . .	6,502,777 feet.
Cedar	4,139 feet	10,337 feet.
Logwood	4,314½ tons	3,222½ tons.
Fustic	19½ tons . . . .	. . . .
Rosewood	1 ton and 37 pieces .	206½ tons.
Cochineal. . . .	5,565 seroons . . .	5,684 seroons.
Indigo	387 seroons	611 serons.
Sarsaparilla	101,031 lbs. . . .	53,689 lbs.
Hides	1488	1,299.
Tortoise shell	150 barrels	45 lbs. and 1 box.
Cocoa nuts	529,430	536,490.
Specie	276,496 dollars . . .	. . . .
Preserved turtle	49 cases	10 turtles.
Plants	41 boxes	6 cases.
Gum	1 bag . . . .	. . . .
Lignum Vitæ . . . .	. . . .	10 tons.
Cases of cigars . . . .	. . . .	4.
Tobacco . . . .	. . . .	23 bales and 22 boxes.
Billy Web wood. . . .	. . . .	6 pieces.
Santa Maria . . . .	. . . .	6 pieces.
Sapodilla . . . .	. . . .	128 pieces.

Schools.

It is highly gratifying to observe the desire evinced in this settlement for the promotion of education and religious instruction. The public meeting, at their late assembling in July, readily responded to a proposition conveyed in my message to increase the facilities of obtaining a plain education, and grants were made, without reference to the religious persuasions, for the support of any new schools which might be hereafter established.

The Honduras Grammar School, to which is annexed a department for girls, has hitherto exclusively received the patronage of the local Government. Considering the very liberal manner in which this institution is, and always has been supported, it has not achieved the results which might have been anticipated. It is, however, satisfactory to remark that the daily attendance of pupils during the last year has greatly increased; the average attendance in 1846 being 75, that in 1847, 100.

I earnestly hope that I shall soon be able to establish a school on the plan adopted by the Moravians, referred to in the report of the Lieutenant-Governor of Tobago, and recommended by Earl Grey.

The Baptists have at present only one school in Belize. They have declined to receive any assistance from the Government. The Wesleyans have a school in Belize, one in Stan Creek, and one at a small town on the banks of the Belize river. They have recently established a Spanish school, and their exertions generally in the cause of education here have been very praiseworthy. The Government has not hitherto been furnished with any reports of the dissenters' schools, but as I have it now in my power to extend the aid of the public funds to these schools, reports will be called for from such of them as shall avail themselves of this assistance.

Prisons.

I have little to add to what I said in my last year's report upon this subject. I then observed that the gaol of Belize was entirely inadequate to the purposes for which it was intended. Until a new building shall have been erected, no really beneficial prison discipline can be enforced. An amelioration of importance, however, has been effected by the removal of lunatics from within its walls. The new lunatic asylum is combined with a dispensary for the relief of the poorer classes, and will be more particularly noticed in my report on hospitals.

Hospitals.

The following report I have received from Dr. Young, the public medical officer of the settlement:—

RETURN of PATIENTS admitted into the Honduras Public Hospital from 1st January to 31st December, 1847.

Diseases.	Admitted.	Cured.	Relieved.	Died.	Remaining.
Fevers. {Bilious, Remittent	20	17	..	3	..
{Intermittent	47	46	..	..	1
Diseases of Lungs	11	6	..	3	2
Diseases of Stomach and Bowels.	35	33	..	2	..
Diseases of the Head.	4	3	..	1	..
Diseases of the Liver.	4	4	..	..	..
Dropsies	4	..	2	1	1
Rheumatic Affections.	16	16	..	..	..
Wounds and Injuries	22	15	..	4	3
Diseases of the Skin	3	1	2	..	..
Abscesses and Ulcers	20	19	..	..	1
Other Diseases	22	20	..	2	..
Old Age and Debility	4	..	..	4	..
Total	212	180	4	20	8

It will be observed, on comparing this report with that already furnished for the three preceding years, that the number of admissions in 1847 have been less than in either of the three preceding years, and 125 less than in 1846. The number of deaths would, however, appear to have been proportionately greater.

On the 18th of March, 1846, a dispensary for the relief of the poor was established, with which has been combined an asylum for the reception of lunatics. The report of the Committee of Management of this establishment, which will sufficiently explain the origin of the institution, and the mode in which it has been hitherto supported, is annexed.

Appendix No. 2.

(Signed) C. ST. JOHN FANCOURT,
Her Majesty's Superintendent.

HONDURAS.

APPENDIX.

No. 1.

STATEMENT of the REVENUE of British Honduras for the Year 1847, in Sterling Money, at 5 Dollars to the £ Sterling.

Description.	Quantity.	Rate.	Amount.		
			£.	s.	d.
Duty on hay	416 trusses . .	At 1s.	20	16	0
„ tonnage	23,339 tons . .	At 2s.	2,333	18	0
„ foreign crafts.	288 tons . . .	At 4s.	57	12	0
„ coffee	40,065 lbs. . .	At 8s. per 100 lbs.	160	6	9
„ cigars	690,500 lbs. . .	At 9s. per 1000	310	14	9
„ cattle	3,061 lbs. . . .	At 4s.	612	4	0
„ horses and mules.	71 lbs.	At 12s.	42	12	0
„ lumber	1,266,930 feet .	At 8s. per 1000	506	16	9
„ shingles	1,459,750 feet .	At 2s. per 1000	148	19	6
„ malt liquor and cider	2,060 galls. and 5,457 doz.	At 6d. and 1s. .	324	7	0
„ molasses	118 galls. . . .	At 6d.	2	19	0
„ sugar, brown	227,960 lbs. . .	At 8s. per 100 lbs.	911	17	0
„ „ white	60,484 lbs. . . .	At 12s. per 100 lbs.	362	18	6
„ spirits and cordials	2,394½ galls. . .	At 4s.	2,745	19	0
„ wines	11,335½ galls. . .	At 2s.			
„ tobacco	401,078 galls. .	At 2s.	401	0	3
„ tea	75,835 lbs. . . .	At 6s.	227	10	3
„ unrated articles	4,706 lbs. . . .	At 1s.	235	6	0
„ „	249,901½ 5s. . .	At 1 per cent. .	2,499	0	3
Tax on carriage wheels	2	At 24s.	2	3	0
„ horses kept in town	2	At 24s.	2	8	0
„ licenses to retail spirits	40 at 30L., 1 at 15L.	. . . . .	1,215	0	0
Fees of Colonial Secretary's Office . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	1,279	13	6
„ Clerk of Court's Office . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	358	8	9
„ Pro.-Marshal-General's Office . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	69	14	9
„ police office . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	342	16	6
„ church . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	57	8	0
„ gaol . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	31	10	0
„ market . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	397	9	0
„ hospital . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	349	0	0
Receipts from harbour dues . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	131	11	0
„ fines and confiscations . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	41	12	9
„ sales of public property . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	105	0	0
„ deposit store rent . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	23	13	0
„ rent of Council Chamber . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	132	12	0
„ storage of gunpowder . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	186	3	0
„ Haulover Ferry . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	28	5	0
Commission of Attorney-General . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	12	0	0
Amount refunded by Lieut. East, R.A. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	7	10	0
			£16,679	3	0

Public Treasury, Belize, Honduras.
December 31, 1847. (Signed) JOHN GOUGH, Public Treasurer.

No. 2.

The FIRST GENERAL REPORT of the FANCOURT DISPENSARY, 31st March, 1848.

IN presenting their First General Report of the year's operations, the Committee would respectfully submit to the public a statement of the origin, object, and mode of support of the institution committed to their management.

In stating the origin of this institution, it must be remembered that, prior to the termination of the apprenticeship which subsisted here after the abolition of slavery, the labouring classes were provided, during sickness, with medical advice and medicines at the expense of their late owners. These expenses, hitherto borne by other parties, would necessarily devolve upon the labouring classes themselves, under the altered condition of their circumstances, although it is but justice to state that a liberal allowance was made by many of the late owners for the support of their faithful servants. The consequence of the labouring classes being thus thrown upon their own resources was the partial, and, in a great many instances, the total neglect of all application on their part to the duly qualified practitioner in the time of sickness, and the further consequence of many deaths, resulting from the absence of any proper medical treatment. Although the amount of evil arising from this state of things may have been small for the first year or two, owing to the humanity of the medical profession in gratuitously treating

those cases which were immediately brought under their notice, yet each succeeding year the evil was progressively increasing.

It was, therefore, no less a sound policy than a Christian duty to devise means to arrest the progress of so fearful an evil. His Excellency Her Majesty's Superintendent, whose anxiety to promote the prosperity and welfare of all classes of this community, must be ever gratefully conceded, was the first to propose the formation of an institution which should combine a gratuitous provision of medical advice and medicine for the indigent poor with a relief to that class of persons who are not in circumstances to command medical assistance in time of sickness and distress. To support an institution of this nature it was suggested that application should be made to those who were charitably disposed for donations and annual subscriptions; that the several ministers of religion should be requested to preach an annual sermon in its behalf; and that servants and all persons in the receipt of the limited wages of from eight dollars to fifteen dollars per month should pay a monthly contribution to entitle them to the benefits of the institution. The institution was therefore to be mainly supported by funds derived from charitable resources. Provision for a lunatic asylum was at the same time contemplated.

On the 18th March, 1847, an institution, based upon these general grounds, was accordingly opened, under the designation of the Fancourt Dispensary, his Excellency Colonel Fancourt graciously accepting the office of patron. It was placed under the management of the Committee who have now the honour of submitting to the public this report. The medical services of Alfred Crocker, Esq., staff assistant surgeon of Her Majesty's forces, were temporarily engaged, and patients were daily prescribed for at the dispensary, or attended at their homes, as the case required. A perusal of the monetary statement and medical return for the year, both of which documents are attached to this report, will at once exhibit the liberal support which has been extended to the infant society, as well as the very great utility of its operations. The income for the year ending 31st March, 1848, amounts to 354*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, whilst the expenditure has been limited to 294*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*

The number of patients for the same period was 354, of whom 298 were subscribers, and 56 were treated gratuitously. The number prescribed for at the dispensary was 202, and 152 were attended at their homes.

The Committee would here gratefully acknowledge the important aid which has recently been rendered by Government to the institution, his Excellency Her Majesty's Superintendent and Council, having signified to the Committee their intention to apply a portion of the proceeds arising from the sale of mahogany trees on the Crown lands towards the payment of the medical officer, an arrangement which was to take effect from the 1st January of the present year, and to continue in force as long as the Crown derived a sufficient revenue from this source.

The peculiar advantages derivable from this institution are obvious. Not only is much personal misery and pain entirely removed, or greatly alleviated, by the timely application of the poorer classes for its aid, but by the out-door medical relief which this institution affords, the public hospital, supported by the public funds, is left to pursue undisturbedly its legitimate sphere of providing for the necessities of the sick seaman, the homeless invalid, and the person who may be so unfortunate as to meet with a serious accident, requiring prompt surgical attendance.

The Committee have had the honour to receive a communication from his Excellency Her Majesty's Superintendent relative to the combination of a lunatic asylum with the dispensary, which important document they would not for a moment withhold from the public, although it has been received subsequent to the close of the year's proceedings and would more properly have formed a portion of the report for the ensuing year.

The Committee however are compelled by the limited space of the columns, kindly allotted by the public journals for the publication of their report, to reserve the many observations which his Excellency's letter suggests, to a future time; they would only at present congratulate the public upon the happy exchange which the poor unfortunate lunatics will undergo by their removal from the common gaol to an asylum where their comforts and mental infirmities will receive every care and special attention.

(Signed)

JOHN GOUGH, Chairman.

W. H. COFFIN, Treasurer.

JOSEPH WEBSTER, Wesleyan Missionary.

JOHN KINGDON, Baptist Missionary.

JOSEPH GEGG, Settlement Curate and Secretary.

Monetary Statement.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Collections after sermons	60	0	5	Medical officer	197	18	4
Donations and annual subscriptions	195	15	10	Servant	21	6	8
Payments by subscribers	99	0	5	Printing	10	10	10
				Furniture	6	1	3
	354	16	8	Medicine and nourishment	59	0	5
					294	17	6
				Balance in favour of the Fancourt			
				Dispensary on the 21st March, 1848	59	19	2
					354	16	8

(Signed)

W. H. COFFIN, Treasurer.

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HONDURAS.

RETURN of CASES treated at the Fancourt Dispensary, Belize, from 18th March, 1847, to 31st March, 1848.

DISEASES.		Cured.	Relieved.	Unrelieved.	Died.	Remaining.	Total.	Total healed of each Class of Diseases.
Fevers.	Intermittent	22	22	51
	Remittent	5	..	..	1	..	6
	Common continued	22	..	..	..	1	23
Eruptive fevers	Scarlatina	6	1	7	7
Diseases of the Brain.	Apoplexy	1	..	1	9
	Palsy . . . . .	..	..	2	1	..	3
	Head-ache	5	..	..	..	..	5
Diseases of the Lungs.	Inflammation of the air passage acute	19	1	20	36
	Inflammation of the air passage chronic . . . . .	..	1	..	1	..	2
	Inflammation of the substance of the lungs . . . . .	..	..	..	1	..	1
	Hæmorrhage from the lungs . . . . .	..	1	..	..	..	1
	Consumption . . . . .	..	..	..	2	..	2
	Asthma	3	4	..	..	..	7
	Difficulty of breathing . . . . .	..	1	..	2	..	3
Diseases of the Stomach and Bowels.	Hæmorrhage from the stomach	1	1	129
	Dysentery acute	1	..	1	2	..	4	
	Dysentery chronic . . . . .	..	..	..	1	..	1
	Indigestion	22	2	..	..	2	26
	Diarrhoea	18	..	..	1	..	19
	Constipation	54	4	..	1	2	61	
	Worms	15	2	..	..	..	17
Dropsies.	Dropsy general	4	1	1	1	..	7	9
	Dropsy of the abdomen . . . . .	..	1	..	1	..	2
	Rheumatism acute	6	1	..	..	..	7
Rheumatic affections.	Rheumatism chronic	10	6	1	1	3	21	50
	Rheumatism of the face and head	11	1	..	..	..	12
	Rheumatism of the chest	2	1	..	..	..	3
	Rheumatism of the back	5	1	..	..	1	7
Venereal affections	1	1	1
Abscesses and Ulcers.	Ulcers	2	..	1	3	6
	Abscesses . . . . .	..	1	1	..	..	3
Wounds and Injuries.	Burns	1	1	8
	Contusions	5	..	..	..	..	5
	Incised wounds	2	2	
Diseases of the eye	2	2	2
Diseases of the skin		6	..	1	..	2	9	9
Diseases peculiar to females		6	1	7	7
Diseases peculiar to infants		4	4	4
Various diseases	Ear-ache	2	2	26
	Sore throat	13	..	1	..	..	14
	Stone in the bladder, and other diseases	7	1	1	..	1	10	
Total		276	31	10	17	17	354	354

Of the numbers included in this return—
298 were subscribers to the institution.
56 were treated gratuitously.

Prescribed for at the dispensary (subscribers)	60	121	202
Gratuitous	7	14	
Attended at their homes (subscribers)	28	89	152
Gratuitous	11	24	

APPENDIX.

Government House, Belize,
May 12, 1848.

SIR,

I HAVE now the pleasure of announcing to you and to the Committee of Management of the "Fancourt Dispensary," that the house formerly occupied by the Baptist Mission is ready for the reception of the medical officer of the establishment, and that the necessary arrangements have been made for the convenient accommodation of lunatics.

The arrangements which have been carried into effect in that part of the building which is destined for the lunatic asylum have been made in accordance with the suggestion of Dr. Dickie, the medical officer of the institution.

The building and entire premises are held by Her Majesty's Superintendent for the time being, with the sole object of their being made use of as a dispensary for the relief of the poor, and as a comfortable receptacle for lunatic persons.

I think this a convenient opportunity of informing you in what manner the purchase money has been made up.

The Committee of the Ladies' Bazaar, which was held in December last, the proceeds of which were to be applied towards providing a house and convenient premises for the reception of lunatics, to be combined with a dispensary for the relief of indigent persons, have transmitted to me the sum of 689 dollars 1 rial. The Superintendent and Council made up the difference between this sum and 2000 dollars from the proceeds of the sale of Crown lands and mahogany trees. The amount therefore applied towards purchasing the building has been 400*l.* sterling, and the house and premises cost 1100*l.* To make up the deficiency I borrowed 700*l.* sterling at 6 per cent., on the security of the house, and this mortgage is held by Her Majesty's Attorney-General.

Until the mortgage is paid off I have decided on letting the various smaller houses on the premises, which are separated from the main building, with a view of applying the proceeds to keeping the whole in repair, and I shall not therefore be obliged to burden the funds collected by the Committee with any charges on account of repairs and alterations. The interest, however, of 6 per cent. on 700*l.* sterling, I trust that the Committee of Management will be able to supply, until the mortgage is redeemed, as well as all the current expenses of the establishment, for medicines, servants, &c.

It was decided, I am informed, at the last public meeting, that whenever a lunatic asylum was established, the sum usually voted for purveying the prisoners in the gaol should be charged with three rials a-day for the support of each lunatic who might be admitted. I conclude, however, that this allowance can only be intended for indigent persons, and I would therefore recommend to the Committee that those who are possessed of competent means, or who have near relations who can afford to aid them, should be admitted to the benefits of the institution subject to a moderate weekly charge.

I ought perhaps to mention to the Committee of Management that no persons should be received into the lunatic asylum without an order for admission under the hand and seal of Her Majesty's Superintendent.

I have, &c.,

John Gough, Esq.,
Chairman of the Fancourt Dispensary.

(Signed) C. ST. JOHN FAN COURT.

SIR,

May 12, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's communication of this day's date, and will immediately summon the Committee of Management together, for the purpose of our taking into consideration the important subject to which your Excellency has called our attention.

I have, &c.,

His Excellency Colonel Fancourt.

(Signed) JOHN GOUGH.

Extract from the Regulations.

All domestic servants and persons who are able to earn from 8 dollars to 15 dollars per month are admitted to the benefits of the Dispensary at the following rates of subscription:—

A single man . . . 1*s.* 8*d.* currency per month.

A man and his wife . . . 2*s.* 6*d.* ditto.

And 5*d.* per month for every child.

Widows and unmarried mothers who are now living morally at 10*d.* currency per month.

Those who are unable to earn so much as 8 dollars per month will be admitted to the benefits of the Institution gratis, on receiving an order from a Member of the Committee or from any Minister of the Gospel.

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No. 23.

(No. 21.)

No. 23.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord HARRIS to Earl GREY.

MY LORD,

Trinidad, February 21, 1848.

(Received March 27, 1848.)

I HAVE the honour to forward to you by this mail the Blue Book of this colony for the year 1847.

The items which require any particular notice from me are, first, the diminution of revenue under the head of imports, which amounts to 7596*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* as compared with 1846.

	£.	s.	d.
1846 . . .	62,703	19	11
1847 . . .	55,107	13	3

The decrease as compared with the whole receipts is considerable; it may be partly accounted for from the unnecessarily large importation which had taken

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place in previous years, and partly from the general depression which occurred during the latter portion of the year.

It is a matter for some question how far any rapid increase in the consumption of superfluities may be counted on for the future, and whether the population of the island when it is put to the trial, will, as money becomes scarcer, prefer to procure luxuries by increased exertion, or will relinquish them rather than undergo greater physical labour.

This is still a doubtful point, and will probably take some time to decide; but the tendency at present is, I fear, in the latter direction.

The principal articles in which the decrease has taken place are, cottons, linens, and silks, boots and shoes, and hardware.

There is a very slight increase in the exports, occasioned by a larger crop and a more extensive shipment of rum.

The quantity of sugar exported last year was 44,665,600 lbs., estimated value 382,551*l.*; that of 1846 was 37,901,800 lbs., estimated value 414,110*l.*; but the prices being much lower the duty diminished accordingly.

I fear that no great improvement can be expected on this item for the present or the succeeding year, and in consequence of the probable diminution of the quantity of land which will be cultivated for the future, an increase cannot be counted on for some time.

I had hoped to have forwarded to your Lordship a return showing the average cost of cultivating the sugar-cane; of the manufacture of the sugar, the quantity produced per acre, with some other information, in the several English, French, Spanish, and Danish islands. The information has been collected, and is still collecting for me, by Dr. Mitchell, a physician of this island, who, I believe, possesses as much practical and scientific knowledge on these subjects as can well be combined in one person, and who has been travelling through the islands for me, in order to acquire a knowledge of the latest improvements of every kind. It has, however, been found so difficult to make any approach to average statements in numbers, that I am obliged to wait for further information; what I have actually collected goes to show, that in the English colonies the sugar has been produced at a considerable loss at the late prices.

There are, however, estates in most of the islands where skill, science, and economy have been brought to bear, and which have made a fair return for the capital expended.

On the best managed estates in the English islands, a cwt. of sugar may be produced for $\$2.50 = 10s. 5d.$; but the average range is from $\$4$ to $\$7 = 16s. 8d.$ to $17. 9s. 2d.$; in Martinique, to $15s. 10d.$; in Guadaloupe, the same; in Santa Cruz, from $\$2.25$ to $\$2.50 = 9s. 2\frac{1}{2}d.$ to $10s. 5d.$; Porto Rico, cheaper; of Cuba I have no correct information, but from 50 cents to $\$1 = 2s. 1d.$ to $4s. 2d.$, which is the same as it was in Trinidad, I have heard, during the existence of slavery.

In Trinidad, I believe, no sugar has been produced at a less cost than $\$3 = 12s. 6d.$ per cwt., but the average is between $\$4$ and $\$5$. Now I find that the average price in the colony, for the last six months of 1847, was $\$3.83 = 15s. 11\frac{1}{2}d.*$; so that the mere production costs more than could be obtained in the market, leaving nothing for the interest of capital, reserve for losses, &c., &c.

Wages in Trinidad, 30 cents = $1s. 3d.$ per task, which takes from four to five hours' work. It is very rare to hear of two tasks being done in a day by the same man.

Forty cents = $1s. 8d.$ per day of eight hours.

In Jamaica, $1s.$ to $1s. 6d.$ per day.

In Barbados, $6\frac{1}{2}d.$ per day.

In St. Lucia, $1s. 3d.$ per day.

In Grenada, $1s.$ per day.

In Santa Cruz, free labour, $1s. 8d.$ per day.

In Guadaloupe and Martinique the cost of the keep of a slave, for the year, is $frs. 220 = 9*l.* 3s.$, or $6d.$ per day; so that Barbados is the only English island at all on an equality with the French, so far as cost of labour is concerned; but there the slaves can be made to work any number of hours in the 24 his master may order.

* This was the average price at which sugar was sold during the year in the colony, but it did not fetch so much in the home market. The present price of sugar is 2.50 dollars sold in the island.

But besides the mere cost, another important point should be added, which is that the sugar made in the slave countries is decidedly superior to that produced by free labour; and this is not altogether owing to the greater care, or the superior machinery they possess; for it will be found that the quality of the sugar has deteriorated in many of our colonies since emancipation, which can only be attributed to the difficulty of procuring experienced labourers, or such as will take sufficient pains to ensure the production of a good article.

Such a state of things has, of course, been felt most severely; but I am happy to say that though greatly dispirited, the planters are exerting themselves almost universally to improve the quality of their sugar, and to diminish the cost of production. Much may yet be done, by the introduction of implemental husbandry and machinery; but as their slave-possessing opponents are equally well, if not better, provided with these, it is very questionable how far they can succeed in the struggle.

I have already on several occasions pointed out to your Lordship the very great benefit which would accrue to this island if a more liberal policy could be adopted respecting the trade with other countries, more especially with France and Spain; a still greater one would be gained if the neighbouring republic of Venezuela could be induced to modify its customs' duties.

Should the steam communication between Port of Spain and Maturin, which I have shown every inclination to support, be established, it will prove very beneficial; but I am more anxious to see a similar one, only on a larger scale, set on foot between this and the city of Bolivar (lately Angostura). There are many reasons for hoping that Port of Spain may eventually become the receptacle of the trade of that vast tract of country from which the Orinoco draws its waters. A steamer, passing by the Cano Macaroo, could reach Bolivar in 70 hours, and return in 50; whereas merchant vessels take from 5 to 20 days to ascend to that place from the chief mouth of the river. An American company has already entered into a contract with the Venezuelan government to navigate the Orinoco, from Bolivar upwards, for a distance of 700 miles, by steamer; it only requires, therefore, to connect Trinidad and Bolivar by a similar, only I hope by an English company, and the interior of the western part of that vast continent would be opened for enterprise, and an invaluable impulse given to the commerce of this island. I have explained my ideas on this subject to Mr. Curtis, the enterprising and able engineer of the Trinidad Railway Company; should he be able to make any progress in this matter while he is in England, and should it come under your Lordship's notice, I beg to recommend it to your favourable consideration.

There is but a very small increase under the head of Crown lands. I have been able to do little more at present than prepare for future improvements. A proclamation was issued offering grants, under the conditions sanctioned by your Lordship; the returns of applicants are not yet completed. The village of Arima has been sold in lots; I hear that some activity in consequence may now be seen in its streets. The village of Aronea has been laid out, and a good many lots purchased; and I hope in a short time to have three or four more villages in progress in different parts of the country.

The failure of the West India Bank has prevented many of the peasantry from becoming purchasers, as great numbers of that class had hoarded their notes; there appears to be still a great prejudice amongst them against entrusting their money to the savings' bank.

It is, however, necessary to proceed with considerable caution in the sale even of village lots. There is a marked inclination in the population to retire to any spot of land they can purchase, instead of continuing to work as hired labourers; and though it may be of minute proportions, yet it is considered at once as an independence, whether it be sufficient to support them and their families, or not.

The frequent division of properties amongst the members of families facilitates these purchases greatly. As the portions become too small to be carried on, for instance, as coffee or cocoa estates, they are sold in small lots, and are thenceforward turned by the purchasers into badly cultivated provision grounds. Though this description of settler has become very numerous, yet no market can be worse supplied with fruit and vegetables than Port of Spain, and the population depends almost entirely on the Main for the larger sort of provisions, such as yams, plantains, and sweet potatoes.

The increase of the public expenditure has been occasioned, as your Lordship is aware, mainly by immigration and the public buildings. The court-house will be

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finished and occupied next month, by which 450*l.* per annum, the amount of rent for the premises at present used for that purpose, will be saved to the colony,

Of the ordinances which were passed by the Legislative Council, that for the encouragement of immigration, &c., No. 9 of 1847, alone requires any lengthened notice from me.

I cannot say that it has succeeded to my satisfaction. The causes of its failure I attribute partly to the very depressed circumstances of the planters at the time of its being brought into force, and the general conviction that the Coolies would not remain on the estates, consequently inducing a small demand for the Coolies, and partly to its want of adaptation to the localities and the population with which it was intended to deal.

The ordinance was brought into force on the 7th June last year, and orders were issued to Major Fagan, the Cooly magistrate, to proceed as rapidly as possible to the several estates in the island to explain the conditions of the law to the proprietors and the Coolies, and to draw out the contracts for all who should be desirous of entering into them. The stipendiary magistrates were also required to render every assistance, and as much as possible to prepare both parties for the Cooly magistrate's visit.

At the end of Major Fagan's tour it was found that the number of estates which had taken Coolies on contract, and the number of Coolies under contract, were as follows:—

Number of estates taking Coolies under contract . . .	46
Number of estates taking Coolies under the monthly tax . . .	25
Number of Coolies taken under contract	1,204
Number of Coolies taken under monthly tax	371
Number of Coolies under contract and monthly tax	1,575
Number of Coolies in the island	4,357

Of the 46 estates the proprietors or managers of 29 paid the 2*l.* per head as required; the others gave bills on their agents in town, which were dishonoured, and which remain unpaid to the present day.

I should have proceeded to require payment had I not found that the means were not forthcoming, and had the Coolies not for the most part left the estates and broken their contracts before I learnt the fate of the bills which had been given by the planters.

In fact, it was discovered afterwards that many of them left the estates within a week of entering into the contract, but no pains were taken to give the Government any information of it. It was even stated to me, on pretty good authority, that on some estates the Coolies were concealed during the visit of Major Fagan, and brought back to their work when he had left that part of the country.

I have said above that the want of means was one cause why contracts were not more generally entered into by the planters. I have on previous occasions described to your Lordship how entirely the greater number of them depend upon advances from merchants for the carrying on their estates, and it has been impossible for them, for the most part, to procure any at all this year. Money has lately been borrowed in Port of Spain at 45 per cent., and many were therefore unable to pay the tax required upon taking contract Coolies.

But there was also a general feeling that the provisions of the ordinance were not sufficiently stringent to warrant their advancing the sum required.

That such has turned out to be the case there can be no doubt. I shall proceed to explain why it appears to me that it was likely to happen.

Your Lordship will remember that the withdrawal of some rules which I had established, respecting the management of the Coolies, was required by a despatch dated 15th September, 1846, and they were accordingly cancelled on the 17th of October following.

The chief principle on which those rules were grounded, was the keeping the Coolies on the estates to which they were allowed by a system of leave tickets and passes, and the ensuring a fulfilment of the agreement made on both sides, by a just and constant surveillance by the Cooly magistrate.

Doubtless there were numerous faults in those rules; from the circumstances of the case they had been drawn up at very short notice, but all will allow, who had the opportunity of judging, that during their operation the Coolies were healthy, well clothed, generally contented, and improving daily in habits of industry.

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On the withdrawal of those rules, they gradually returned to the habits which are natural to them; they left the estates, and were to be seen wandering about the country in bands, and by the time that the immigration ordinance came into force, but few were remaining on the properties on which they had been originally located.

I must now explain how the provisions of that ordinance did not serve to correct the evil. On entering into contract, the Coolies were liable on breaking their engagement to certain penalties. In order to enforce these it was necessary first that the delinquents should be caught, and then brought before a justice of the peace. Now the great difficulty is, in this country, to get such penalties to bear at all upon the delinquents.

Your Lordship must remember that the sugar estates in this colony, comprising at the most an extent of 32,000 acres, are scattered over an area of 1,200,000, and that though in some districts they are closely packed, in others they are separated by extensive forests, and that even where the estates are adjoining one another, the roads are for some months in the year almost impassable for horsemen.

A proprietor or manager, on finding that his Coolies have left the estate, would first of all have to discover in what direction they had proceeded, no easy matter in a thinly populated country, and chiefly forest land. If he get information of their course, he must then either himself leave his estate or send his overseer, by which loss is certain to accrue to him (for I can assure your Lordship, whatever you may hear to the contrary, that it requires strict, constant, and untiring watchfulness to procure the very sparing and very imperfect labour of the Creole from him), and he may probably go after all in the wrong direction, and never fall in with the Coolies, but if he do, then he has to lose more days in appearing at police offices, &c.

The result has been that I know of only one instance in which the proprietor has attempted to recover the Coolies.

The consequence of their re-adoption of their wandering habits have been most distressing. I was induced, from numbers being found destitute, sick, and starving in the roads, to establish two hospitals for their reception, one at Port of Spain, and the other at San Fernando, both under the superintendence of the surgeon of the colonial hospital. The returns of the last eight months have shown an average of between 200 and 300 people to provide for instead of 90, which had been the previous average. Since last June 250 Coolies have died in the hospital, and great numbers in other places; in fact, scarcely a week passes but reports are sent from different parts of the country, of the skeletons of Coolies being found in the woods and cane-pieces. I believe that in no country has greater suffering been undergone than by these unfortunate people in the shape of disease, starvation, and ultimate death; and to those who have had to witness it daily it has been most distressing. Such being the state of the contracts, it was impossible to carry out the monthly tax provision; the principle of the law depended, I imagine, on the supposition that there would be a demand for all under contract; that not being the case, and the Coolies declaring their willingness to enter into contract, they could hardly be forced to pay the tax. In addition, it would have been impossible to enforce it, in consequence of their inability to pay, for the wages of numbers have been in arrear for a long time, often as much as three and four months.

The scarcity of money is and has been so great, that on the arrival of the Africans by the "Growler," I was informed that, though willing to take them, no one could afford to pay the tax, and I was obliged to take bills at three months, or else I must have kept the immigrants on my hands.

With respect to the Coolies who have arrived the case was even worse; for two days I waited, and not a single application was received for any one of them. The Immigration Agent-General was sent to inquire if any would take them, but all declined, and I was at length obliged to distribute them amongst six estates, the agents of which offered to take them on making no payment at all.

Had it been in my power, I was resolved to retain these people, and employ them for the Government, and I would have done so at first with all the Coolies, but that it would have required an army to collect them and keep them in custody; and besides, your Lordship is aware of the pecuniary difficulties in which I have been, and still am placed; that I have at times scarcely enough in the treasury to liquidate the most ordinary calls for hospitals, gaol, and police, and I

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should therefore have been utterly unable to support these Coolies for more than a few days, and must have yielded at last to circumstances.

I have felt and still feel myself in a most disagreeable position respecting the state of the immigrants; there is nothing more objectionable than to allow the provisions of any law to fall into desuetude; but every point upon which I might have expected support, the very ground on which the law was framed, have failed me.

1st. There was not a demand even for half the Coolies.

2nd. Then the pecuniary destitution of the planters.

3rd. Their indifference or inability to see the law carried out.

I have felt also the more anxious of the success of this law because it did not emanate from myself. I have no doubt of the wisdom of the principle which your Lordship laid down, that we should seek "to place them (the immigrants) in a situation in which they might be acted upon by the same motives by which men are impelled to labour in industrious countries."

Now I would, with all deference, submit that it is, from what I have already shown, impossible to place the immigrant in a situation similar to that of labourers in industrious countries, the circumstances of the countries, of the facilities for communication, for travelling, for justice, for police, being so very different.

I have, moreover, great doubts whether the Cooly and the African are morally or mentally capable of being acted upon by the same motives in this island on their first arrival as labourers are in more civilized countries. That one which urges the mere support of animal existence will not induce them to continuous and skilful labour when their wants can be supplied by the most parsimonious use of their muscles. The fear of the law, it is manifest, is not very readily brought to bear on them. Luxuries they do not generally know of or require. The only independence which they would desire is idleness, according to their different tastes in the enjoyment of it. And then the higher motives which actuate the European labourer (and we must remember the vast difference there is even in Europe with respect to the industry of various races), which are above and beyond circumstances irrespective of mere self interest, which he has received as his patrimony from previous generations, and which I believe, even in this age, are still to be found prevailing amongst them, viz., that to be industrious is a duty and a virtue; that to be independent in circumstances, whatever his station, raises a man in the moral scale amongst his race; and that his ability to perform his duties as a citizen, and there we may add as a Christian, is increased by it. These, and such motives as these, are unknown to the fatalist worshippers of Mahomet and Brahma, and to the savages who go by the name of liberated Africans.

A proof of this, and a marked difference, may be seen daily in the vicinity of Port of Spain. The Portuguese are chiefly settled in the town or its vicinity as gardeners, &c.; their services are at a premium; their work is on the whole more valuable; they get higher wages than the African, the Cooly, or the Creole, so that their circumstances are at least as good, in fact better, for they live more economically. Yet at four o'clock, when their day's task is over, they are to be seen not idling about the grog shops, or loitering about the streets, but employing the remaining hours of daylight in cutting up wood wherever they get leave to do so, and carrying logs or bundles of it into town for sale; but no such idea had ever entered the heads of the others; and now when times are altered, when provisions are scarce and dear, and money hardly to be got, they have not shown any symptoms of following the example, or of employing their extra time profitably.

After having given my best consideration to the subject, it appears to me that in the first place the immigrants must pass through an initiatory process. They are not, neither Coolies or Africans, fit to be placed in a position which the labourers of civilized countries may at once occupy; they must be treated like children, and wayward ones too; the former from their habits and their religion, the latter from the utterly savage state in which they arrive.

They must serve an apprenticeship, if not, if suffered to go at large, the consequences to the Coolies have been only too extensively and sadly developed in Jamaica, in Demerara, and in Trinidad. To the African, he for the most part lives, but he remains a savage, and frequently leaves the cultivated lands and joins his countrymen at one of the several villages which they have been permitted to establish. Here again, when he has once escaped, the proprietor and the law are baffled; if search is made, where in the forests is he to be looked for? If tracked

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to a village he is not to be found; he can always elude the seekers, who seldom take the trouble to return for him a second time.

To show your Lordship how necessary it is that if immigration is to be continued some stricter surveillance must be adopted, I give a return which I called for last November, and which was made on the 30th of that month. The returns were sent from every sugar estate but one, and from most of the large cocoa properties in the island. The statement shows the number of men, women, and children located on the estates, or working on that day, to which is added the number of Creoles, most of whom are slaves liberated in 1838, or their descendents.

Countries whence Imported.	Number of Immigrants Imported.
Old Islanders	11,339
Africans	3,990
Coolies	4,359
Americans (free black)	1,301
Portuguese	962
Saba	64
<hr/>	
Total immigrants	22,015
Natives of Trinidad emancipated in 1838	20,656
<hr/>	
	42,671
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Countries whence Imported.	Number remaining on Estates.	Cost.		
		£.	s.	d.
Old Islanders	2,641	26,790	8	4
Africans	2,154	30,695	7	8
Coolies	2,110	78,013	13	5
Americans	148	8,131	5	0
Portuguese	119	7,014	1	8
Saba . . . . .	. .	200	0	0
<hr/>				
Natives of Trinidad emancipated in 1838 .	7,172	150,844	16	1
	3,166	1,184,964	16	3
<hr/>				
	10,338	1,335,809	12	4
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So that 5291 men, 2798 women, 2249 children = 10,338, were to be found of all sorts (including the increase since 1838) located, though perhaps not working, and working, though perhaps not located, on nearly all the estates of the island on the 30th November last.

The proportion of men, women, and children is matter for serious consideration.

Of course this report does not presume to state that the rest are lost utterly and entirely to the colony, but it does seem that the immigrants have not up to the present time answered the purposes for which they were imported, or at all events that a most extensive diminution takes place; for though the immigration may be said to have commenced in 1839, yet by far the larger portion has occurred within the last five years. Some doubtless located in the towns and neighbouring villages may be still available during crop time, but generally such is not the case; they live independently, and not, I fear, by honest industry. During the crop time the sugar canes from neighbouring estates furnish a large part of their food; a few plantains, sweet potatoes, tobacco, all easily procured, and salt fish make the sum of their wants.

It is most desirable that an attempt should be made to prevent such results for the future. The immigrant has been looked upon too much as a mere animal, whose labour is valuable; whereas I would endeavour to make him eventually a useful colonist, an industrious and worthy citizen. To attain this he must be subjected to a discipline and to education. The provisions of that discipline must be directed, superintended, and enforced by the Government, in a colony like this. To leave it to the proprietor or manager to whom the immigrant may be entrusted as a labourer, is probably rendering the plan nugatory; there are duties towards

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those under him, which he is also ignorant of, and which he must be taught. Could the immigrants already imported at such heavy cost have been kept to the purposes for which they were introduced, their labour alone would amply suffice to carry on the cane cultivation, and the sugar manufacture of the island.

It will be conceded by all, that an allowance of one person for two hogsheads (including the work of men, women, and children,) is amply sufficient; or rather, that a population of 100 persons is able to produce 200 hogsheads of sugar, and that the aged and sick may be included in that number. It might be done with less, in fact; there are those who have assured me that they can manage with the work of from 30 to 50 for 200 hogsheads. But taking the larger number, and putting the average of the crop of the island at 30,000 hogsheads, it is really less, 15,000 persons would be required. The population of the island at the last census (1845) was 59,815.

It is questionable, under present circumstances, whether immigration can, or if so, whether it ought to be continued; and it is still more questionable, if it be true, as I am informed, that orders have already been received from one-third of the estates in the colony to be thrown out of cultivation after the present crop. But if it is to continue, when is it to cease? It is clear that the immigrants do not necessarily remain on estates to give the benefit of their labour; and if immigration is recommended, in order to place the labour market on a par with that in slaveholding countries, if this is to be accomplished, it will be necessary to mass men together in such bodies, that the pressure of starvation shall act with equal power as the fear of the whip. To reach at this point would require, and in a very short time, thousands upon thousands, in a country like this, with vast tracts of fertile lands uncultivated, unless they be restrained within bounds and kept to their appointed work.

To compete with the slave owner, it is not only cheap but continuous labour which the planter requires, and of which he at present cannot be certain, but which he is obliged to use all methods in endeavours to obtain. There is the great burthen and difficulty which every European has, more or less, from the highest to the lowest, to contend with in the colonies; that though he is obliged to bear with conduct which he would not tolerate in his own country; that though he is suffering continued annoyance from the carelessness, the idleness, and the waste of his property, which he sees ever going on, yet, for the sake of some little peace and quiet, he is obliged almost to cringe to those whose vices he can scarcely endure, and to permit much, in order to save himself from greater loss and discomfort.

I would here call your Lordship's attention to the result of the policy which has been carried on, and how by it the finances of the colony have been reduced; how its means have been consumed in a most extravagant and but very partially successful system of immigration. To this has everything been sacrificed; and for the sake of getting an extended cane cultivation, which is now on the point of being abandoned, all improvements, even the most important, have been neglected. I have on former occasions stated to your Lordship the dearth of education, the scanty means of instruction which the colony affords; the population is annually increasing, the young are daily advancing in numbers, and simultaneously advancing in ignorance and in vice, but I am deprived of means to improve their condition.

The gaol is so crowded that there has been, and is, great fear of serious disease breaking out amongst the prisoners, but the treasury has no funds to spare to increase it.

The hospital (a hired building) is so inconvenient, so ill-arranged, so badly drained, that twice during the year has hospital gangrene shown itself amongst the patients, but the plans which I have ready for a new one cannot be made use of.

The lunatics and the idiots wander at large about the streets, to the annoyance and disgust of all, except when at times they become violent; then, if by chance room may be found either in the gaol or the hospital, or the police station, they are confined. Daily, during the last year, have I desired to commence building only a few strong rooms, in which they might be housed, but the want of funds has stopped me.

I think I have stated enough to satisfy your Lordship that this matter requires consideration, and that the system has been faulty, more especially when I add,

that out of 990 persons convicted of crimes during the year, only 240 were natives of the island.

I have not hesitated to state plainly to your Lordship the faults and failings of the Creole population; it is with great pleasure that I can bear witness to their good qualities, which have been particularly displayed during the present distress. The labourers on estates have worked as usual thereon, though there has been a want of money to pay them regularly, and up to the present time, wages are due on some estates for three and four months.

It has been also very gratifying to me to see the emulation which has been called forth amongst the young, by holding examinations, and by the distribution of a few prizes; and a much greater progress has been made by some during the past year than I had expected, and I feel certain that it only requires the means to diffuse instruction more extensively to cause a rapid and general improvement in the mental, and I hope also in the moral, state of the population. To what pitch of advancement they are capable of attaining, remains still to be proved. They are at present subjects for great anxiety and for great interest.

Under the fostering care of Great Britain, if she will still foster them, I believe that the population of this island may become not only prosperous, but may prove of vast importance in assisting to civilize the fine and extensive continent in its vicinity.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HARRIS.

MALTA.

MALTA.
No. 24.

(No. 124.)

No. 24.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor the Right Hon. R. MORE O'FERRALL to Earl GREY.

Malta, November 20, 1848.

(Received December 7, 1848.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith the Blue Book of these islands for the year 1847, which closed soon after my arrival.

The financial statement, with the explanatory notes, has been furnished by the Auditor-General, under the following heads:—

Civil Establishment.

The pay and salaries of the persons employed in the several branches of the Civil Service of these islands amounted, on the 31st December, 1847, to the following yearly rates, including for vacant situations, and classed in the order ruling on that day, but since altered, under instructions from the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury:—

	£.	s.	d.
Civil (including 500 <i>l.</i> transferred for allowance to the Commander of the Forces) .	10,863	2	6
Revenue	4,601	0	0
Judicial (including police and quarantine) .	22,430	3	0
Ecclesiastical	466	15	0
Public instruction	3,902	0	0
Charitable institutions	5,212	0	0
	<u>£47,475</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>

Of which total, 43,537*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*, payable from the general revenues, 2,483*l.* from the registry fees of the Courts of Justice, and 1,225*l.* from the profits and rents of the Monte di Pietà.

Some further services, not to a large amount and chiefly ecclesiastical, are defrayed in the class of allowances; and the above statement is exclusive of any emoluments which are fluctuating in amount.

Compared with the statement made last year, there is an increase of 444*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* This is accounted for by 473*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* on the one hand, for the new appoint-

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ment of Private Secretary and Aide-de-Camp to the Governor, diminished on the other by the result of various other changes and arrangements.

An entirely new arrangement of the expense of the Civil Establishments, under instructions recently received from Her Majesty's Treasury, will govern the classification under this head in next year's Report.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The gross receipts of Revenue during the year have amounted to 108,424*l.* 0*s.* 9½*d.*, deducting from which 4,201*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* for drawbacks, there remains for service a net income of 104,222*l.* 9*s.* 6½*d.*, being an increase of 5,158*l.* 1*s.* 6½*d.* over the net amount collected in the year 1846. It also exceeds by 1,670*l.* 9*s.* 6½*d.* the sum estimated for the same, in June, 1846, founded upon the experience of previous years. The sources of increase over the average are in the import duties, tonnage due and store rent of bonded goods; those which have fallen below the average are the licenses and quarantine dues. The judicial fees, although showing an increase of 284*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* over the receipts of 1846, are still 16*l.* below their estimate; but the principal difference in the comparison of the two years is in the rents of the Land Revenue. These show an augmentation of 3,183*l.* 15*s.* 1½*d.*, the cause of which is to be sought with reference to the year 1846, as the receipts of 1847 accorded with the estimate, founded upon the actual receipts of the eight years previous. The cause of deficiency in 1846 was explained in last year's Report. The rent-roll of Crown lands has maintained itself, presenting a total of 23,861*l.* per annum. On the 31st December, 1846, it stood at 23,821*l.*

In addition to the revenue collected within the year, a surplus of 3,189*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*, remaining from former years, was brought forward in aid of the year's resources.

The expenditure defrayed during the year amounted to 104,562*l.* 7*s.* 8½*d.*, including 4201*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* paid in drawbacks of revenue. Deducting these there was a net expenditure of 100,360*l.* 16*s.* 5½*d.* less than the net amount disbursed in 1846.

The greater portion of this decrease is accounted for by 5462*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* less in that branch of expenditure which has hitherto been classed under the head of Extraordinary Contingencies, and which in 1846 included a large outlay on special works, defrayed from the surplus funds of previous years. The total amount under this head in 1847 was 6584*l.* 13*s.* 7½*d.*, of which 2329*l.* 7*s.* 2½*d.* were provided for in a supplementary estimate, laid before the Council for its sanction in December last. Nearly 2000*l.* of this sum was applied to relieve the distress of the poor, chiefly by employment on the roads, and to the extent of 300*l.* in direct alms.

These extraordinary charges were compensated by various casual savings on the regular branches of expense, principally from vacancies on the establishment in the offices of Governor and Chief Secretary, and by the steam-dredge being lent to the naval department, for which the sum of 1178*l.* was taken in the estimates and not expended. Other excesses, in expenses of usual occurrence, occasioned by the high price of provisions, also found compensation in savings on various branches; so that in the whole a saving of 1414*l.* 3*s.* 7½*d.* occurred on the estimate of the year. Add to this 1670*l.* 9*s.* 6½*d.* for a larger receipt of revenue than the amount estimated, and 1169*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.* for the balance left unappropriated on that estimate, and the year will be found to have benefited to the extent of 4253*l.* 13*s.* 4½*d.* The same result will appear from a different statement, namely,—

	£.	s.	d.
Gross receipts of revenue	108,424	0	9½
Gross amount expended	£104,562	7	8½
Deduct expenses taken over from the estimates of previous years	1,901	11	4½
	£102,660	16	3½
Add expenses left over for future disbursement	1,509	11	1
	104,170	7	4½
Surplus acquired from the year's transactions	£ 4,253	13	4½

This increases the available surplus from 1287*l.* 12*s.* 2½*d.* remaining at the end of the preceding year to 5541*l.* 5*s.* 7½*d.* remaining at the end of the year 1847. Add the expenses left over for future disbursement, and the surplus in cash will stand 7050*l.* 16*s.* 8½*d.*

Public Works.

Besides the ordinary maintenance and repair of the Government buildings lands, streets, roads, moles, aqueducts, cisterns, and sewers; the following sums (omitting fractions) have been expended on special public works:—

- £302 in the completion of an additional line of aqueduct from San Giuseppe to Valetta; total cost 4410*l.*, including a supplemental grant of 292*l.*
- £462 in the completion of certain special works and services for the supply of fresh water in consequence of the drought of 1846; total expended 2142*l.*
- £200 in continuation of the expense of restoring the monuments of St. John's Church.
- £172 in completion of a sum of 1656*l.* laid out for cost and repair of furniture for the palace of Valetta, leaving 28*l.* unavailed of from a subsidiary grant of 200*l.* for this service.
- £204 in the completion of various substantial repairs in the market-house of Cospicua, and in re-constructing the public drains in its neighbourhood, rendered necessary by the construction of the adjacent new dock by the naval department; total expended, 796*l.*
- £1674 in the improvement of certain streets and roads.
- £117 in restoring certain public cisterns in the country (other than those provided for in 1846) leaving over for future disbursement a balance of 33*l.*
- £88 in commencing the work of converting a stone-quarry at the Lazaretto, into a tank for water, out of a grant of 500*l.* for this object.
- £99 in continuing the extension of the breakwater at Gozo.
- £85 in providing the streets of Floriana with lamps.
- £200 in substantial repairs of the Ospizio, or asylum for the aged and infirm at Floriana.
- £128 in enlarging the conservatory of Notarial Archives at Gozo.
- £66 in building a guard-room for the marine police.
- £39 in fitting up a new guard-room to the great prison.
- £1672 in repairing certain roads in Malta and Gozo, which had been damaged by the heavy rains of last winter. This work was undertaken at an earlier period than originally intended, in order to give employment to the poor in a season of distress, occasioned by the high price of bread.

In the estimate for the year 1847, another work was provided for by a grant of 150*l.*, for partly renewing the arches of the lower Barracca; but the erection of a contiguous battery by the ordnance department rendered the postponement of this work necessary, and will probably require that it should be undertaken upon a different plan from the one originally projected.

The only alterations that have taken place in the ordinary works are the following:—

1. The limit for lighting and cleansing the streets has been increased 100%, in order to provide for the lamps newly constructed for lighting the streets of Floriana.
2. In consequence of some unforeseen repairs having become necessary, which could not be postponed without detriment to the buildings, an addition of 194*l.* was made to the sum usually appropriated to the maintenance and necessary repair of the government buildings and lands.

Military.

The expenditure incurred by Great Britain for the military protection of Malta amounted in 1847 to 99,473*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*; 6200*l.* of which amount having

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been as usual, contributed from the local revenues of the island, namely 1200*l.* in consideration of the augmented strength of the Royal Malta Fencible regiment, to enable it to furnish guards for the coast, and 5000*l.* in aid of the military service of the island generally.

The amount of the military expenditure is 8645*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* more than in 1846.

The amount of bills drawn by the Deputy Commissary-General, on the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury for the military and naval services of the year, is found from the official return of the Commissary-General, to have been 132,408*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.*, being 8781*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.* less than the amount so drawn for during the preceding year.

Judicial.

The attention of the Council of Government was occupied during a part of the year with the consideration of Mr. Jameson's last report on the proposed code of criminal laws for Malta; and the revision of the various articles of the code, of which that gentleman had recommended the alteration or the suppression.

Crime.

Thirty-three indictments were disposed of during the year in the superior criminal courts of Malta, that is to say, in Her Majesty's Criminal Court and Court of Special Commission, against 41 offenders.

The offences set forth in the said 33 indictments were—

Theft	17
Wounding	4
Breach of quarantine laws	7
Breach of nocturnal precept	2
Libel or contravention of the law relating to the liberty of publishing printed writings	2
Against nature	1
	<hr/>
	33
	<hr/>

Of the number of offenders 41 were found guilty and sentenced to—

Hard labour	12
Simple imprisonment	6
Fine	14
	<hr/>
	32
	<hr/>

Of the remaining 9.

Total number of sentenced	32
Acquitted	8
Discharged for want of jurisdiction	1
	<hr/>
	41
	<hr/>

Ecclesiastical—Education.

Under the heads of Ecclesiastical and Education there is no particular observation to make for the year 1847.

Commerce and Manufactures.

The amount of imports is 448,614*l.* more than in the previous year. On this head it may be remarked that in most articles both of import and export, there is generally an increase observable; but a great part of the remarkable excess in the imports is to be found in the very large quantity of grain and pulse either introduced for consumption or brought here in transit during the year.

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The estimated amount of exports is also greatly above that of last year, in fact more than twice as large, exceeding it by the sum of 387,560*l*. A large proportion of this excess is due to the re-exportation of wheat, barley, and Indian corn, for the supply of the United Kingdom and the Mediterranean ports.

The whole excess of exports, however, is not directly traceable to this source. In the article of sail-cloth manufactured in Malta, there is an excess of nearly 74,000*l*. in value over the exports of 1846. This excess, however, is likewise attributable probably to the great resort of vessels, occasioned by the active trade in corn.

The merchant vessels measuring 2528 tons, were built in Malta during the year 1847, five of which were registered according to law, measuring tons, 1270.

Agriculture, and Grants of Land.

From information obtained through the Land Revenue Department, it results that a greater than the usual breadth of land was sown with grain, and a smaller than usual quantity of cotton was grown. The grain crops, and generally speaking, the other agricultural products of the island were moderate in amount and quality; but the high prices of the year made it on the whole a good one for the cultivators, both of Malta and Gozo.

The collector of land revenue reports that 14 small patches of waste ground in Malta, and three in Gozo were granted during the year, the value of which amounted to 23*l*. 17*s*. 6*d*. They were as usual given on the application of the proprietors of contiguous lands, to whom alone they could have been of any value, which will explain why the Government in disposing of them did not put them up to public sale.

Population.

The increase of the population beyond the returns of last year, amounts to 1103 individuals; the increase appears to be chiefly in the greater number of Queen's troops and aliens.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) R. MORE O'FERRALL.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

IONIAN ISLANDS.

IONIAN
ISLANDS.
No. 25.

(No. 31.)

No. 25.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Her Majesty's LORD HIGH COMMISSIONER in and for the UNITED STATES of the IONIAN ISLANDS to Earl GREY.

Corfu, July 9, 1848.

(Received July 31, 1848.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the duplicate of the annual finance statement called the "Blue Book," for the year ending the 31st January, 1847, together with the accompanying Report.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) SEATON.

Civil Establishment.

The apparent decrease in the expenditure under this head will be accounted for in its proper place, and the explanation will show, that no material change has taken place in the civil establishment of these States since the last return.

It is to be observed that the olive crop, being the staple of Corfu and Paxo, is biennial, and, therefore, that the revenues of alternate years, that is of 1845

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and 1847, are compared in the following statement, but that the expenditure of the two consecutive years, that is 1846 and 1847, are compared:—

	£.
The gross amount of the general revenue for 1845 was	149,242
Local revenues	35,648
	<hr/>
	£184,890

	£.
The gross amount of the general revenue for 1847 was	122,893
Of the local revenue	35,225
	<hr/>
	£156,118

Showing a decrease in the latter year of 27,772/.

The items of general revenue, showing a decrease, are,—

	£.
Customs	6,219
Transit duty	169
Duty on oil	12,313
Duty on currants	6,002
Island wines	87
Grain	240
Stamp duties	1,614

The items showing an increase are,—

Foreign wines and spirits.
Tobacco.
Sale of gunpowder.

As was observed, on a former occasion, the increase in the Customs usually varies with the export duties upon the staple produce of the several islands; the falling off of the revenue, derived from the exportation of oil and currants, will fully account for the decrease in the Customs for the year 1847; indeed, the falling off in all the items of general revenue, showing a decrease, with the exception of grain and stamped paper, may be traced to the same cause.

The deficiency of the grain duty was the natural consequence of higher prices, curtailing, to a certain extent, the use of grain subject to duty.

Although the limited profits of merchants and landed proprietors, which may be expected from the falling off in the exports of the staple produce, must, in some degree, have affected the stamp duties, the decrease is principally caused by the system of district sessions being better understood and developed, and the diminution of business in the tribunals of the town, stamped paper being necessary in the proceedings of the latter, but not required by the former.

The decrease in the revenue, arising from the exportation of oil, is the consequence of a less abundant crop, whereas, the decrease in that derived from the exportation of currants proceeded from a fall in prices, and a want of demand, occasioned by the commercial difficulties experienced throughout Europe, and failures of establishments in countries engrossing great part of the currant trade.

The decrease in the other items, enumerated in the schedule, is unimportant.

The reasons for comparing the general revenue of alternate years render it expedient also to compare the municipal revenue of alternate years, that of 1845 being 35,648/., is therefore compared with that of 1847, being 33,225/., and the result is a decrease of 2423/.

The items showing a decrease are,—

Land revenue and licences.
Mole duties, Santa Maura.
Inter Island duties on island wines.
Import duty on cattle.

Export duty on Valonea.
Proportion of Custom duty on imports.
Road duties.

The items showing increase are,—

Sale of municipal lands and houses.
Salines, including salt monopoly.
Shop, tavern, and other licences.
Fines, compositions.
Port duties.
Water-rates, Corfu and Zante.
Export duty on Zante soap.
Incidentals.

The falling off in the amount of the land revenue in some degree.

In the year 1845 the receipts were augmented by the payment of arrears, whereas, in 1847, many of the Government tenants had again fallen into arrear.

In the interval, Government property, it should also be observed, to a considerable amount had been disposed of, in some instances the schools have been located in houses which formerly paid rent.

The falling off of the Inter Island duty on native wines arises from a quantity greater than the demand having been brought into the market during the year 1845.

The consumption of animal food depending always on the means of the population, the inferiority of the oil crop of 1847 to 1845 will sufficiently account for the falling off in the "import duty on cattle," and as the amount appropriated for the construction of roads, consists of a duty of $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ per cent., upon the importation of cattle, and a duty upon the importation of certain articles, the observations already offered upon the several items apply to this duty in the aggregate.

The observations also upon the Custom import duties, under the head of general revenue, are equally valid when applied to the portion of them granted as a temporary subsidy to the municipal revenues.

The comparative decrease in the revenue, arising from arm licences, mole duties of Santa Maura, and exportation of Valonea, requires no notice.

The increase arising from the salt monopoly is caused, first, by the sale of a large quantity of salt accumulated, which was sent upon speculation to Venice; secondly, by an unusually productive olive crop in the Island of Zante, which occasioned a very large consumption of salt, it being used by the Zantiots in preparing their oil.

To this abundant olive crop may also be attributed the renewed activity in the manufacture and exportation of soap, which caused the duty of 1847 to exceed that of 1845 by 178*l.*

The increase under the head of the item "Incidentals" is made up of 143*l.* paid in by merchants in consideration of law proceedings being staid, and of 85*l.* being the profits of the public baths at Corfu.

There is an inconsiderable increase upon the several items of—

Shop Licences,
Port duties, &c.
Water rates.

Although from the returns stated it is necessary to compare the revenues, whether general, or municipal, of alternate years, it is more convenient to compare the expenditure of consecutive years: on the present occasion, therefore, the expenditure of the year 1846 will be compared with that of 1847.

Under the head of general expenditure there has been a

	£.
Decrease of . . .	32,615
An increase of . . .	6,406
	<hr/>
Total decrease . . .	£26,209

The items showing an increase are—

Judicial Establishment.
Contingencies of collecting revenue.
Paper for Stamps.
Contingencies of the General and Local Government.

The increase in the Judicial Establishment is the salary of an additional minor judge for the island of Cerigo, as provided by Act No. 46 of the present Parliament.

A comparison of the contingencies of collection, &c., for 1846 with those of 1847 leads to no conclusion as to the average annual charge for those services.

In 1846 they were advanced 400*l.* for a large supply of paper for stamps. In 1847 to the extent of 591*l.* for the purchase of two cranes for the Custom House at Corfu.

The increase for the contingencies of the general government is occasioned,

1. By the expenses of the ordinary session of Parliament.
2. By the purchase of a house for the permanent residence of the President of the Senate; and lastly, by the purchase of articles of furniture required for the new prison, and the salaries of the officers of that establishment.

The items showing a decrease are—

Civil establishment.

Education.

Rents of public offices on civil quarters.

Public works.

Packet service.

Military protection.

The decrease in the civil establishment is occasioned by the transfer of the prison establishment to the Local Government, and partly by the profits of the packet establishment, which, as the expenses of that department and the police are deducted from the receipts, have diminished the charge for those services to the amount stated.

The decrease in the charge for education is more apparent than real. In the course of the year 1846 a number of buildings appropriated to the purposes of education were repaired, a charge for which the account for 1847 is free.

The great decrease in the charge for public works is occasioned by the new prison in Corfu having been nearly completed, and requiring only a moderate further outlay to proceed with the surrounding wall, and no expense having been incurred on account of the Mole at Santa Maura.

The decrease in the charge of rents for public offices is caused by the payments being in arrear when the account was made up; and the observations with respect to the decrease in the charge for the civil list will explain the decrease in that for the packet establishment.

The sum of 15,976*l.*, which appears as a diminution of the expenditure for military protection, is the amount of debt to Her Majesty's Government which has accrued during the year, but has been considerably reduced since the accounts were closed.

Municipal Expenditure.

The result of a comparison between the municipal expenditure for 1846 and 1847 is satisfactory, inasmuch as it shows

	£.
An increase of	3,769
And a decrease of	18,296
	<hr/>
Total decrease	£14,427
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The items showing increase are—

Ground rents.

Prisons, diet, clothing.

Careening dock at Cephalonia.

Moles and harbours.

Hospitals, charities, (not including lunatic asylum.)

The increased expenditure for prisons, &c., is not real.

Up to the month of September, 1846, the charge for this service was borne by the general Government, therefore the few months of the year, during which the charges were placed to the account of the local Governments, have been entered with those of the whole of the financial year 1847; had it been possible to make a fair comparison of the two years the result would have been different.

In the same way the increased expenditure for the careening dock in Cephalonia is only apparent. In 1846 it was defrayed by the general Government,

and in 1847 charged to the municipal funds. The sum charged for moles not forming harbours has been applied to works of great public usefulness carried on in Cephalonia.

The increased charge for the hospitals and charities is principally occasioned by an advance which the Government was obliged to make to the Casa di Ricovero of Corfu, in consequence of a falling off in the voluntary subscriptions by which that establishment was supported.

The items showing decrease are—

Ecclesiastical and municipal buildings.
Contingent expenses of salt monopoly.
Lighting and clearing the streets.
Aqueducts.
Widening the Lefchimo river.
Canal, Santa Maura.
Salaries, (including ecclesiastical establishment.)
Incidentals, (including interest upon loans.)

In 1846 it was necessary to purchase ground for municipal and ecclesiastical buildings,—in 1847 that necessity existed no longer, hence the decrease in the charge for that service.

The small decrease in the charge for lighting and cleaning the streets is the consequence of a more favourable contract.

In the year 1846 a considerable expense was incurred for pipes for the aqueduct in Zante, for repairs to that in Corfu, and for the construction of a large tank in Paxo.

This expenditure was not necessary in 1847.

The works at Lefchimo were suspended during the greater part of the year 1847, and though subsequently renewed, the outlay has been limited to a fixed sum per mensem.

The charge in 1846 for the canal in Santa Maura was greatly increased by the purchase of expensive machinery.

These have been paid for, and are in full operation at present, the principal outlay for this great work is the sum necessary for labour and superintendence.

The decrease in the item of salaries and ecclesiastical establishments is occasioned partly by a decrease in the casualties which, during the year, threw a number of the labourers, injured while employed on public works, for temporary relief, and probably also, by a better system of management.

In 1846 the incidentals were burthened with the purchase of a house in Cephalonia, destined for a public office, no such charge appears in the account of 1847; to this circumstance, and to a reduction in the expenses of the establishment at Castellanus, a saving of 385*l.* has been effected, which appears in the present return.

Military Establishment.

The Ionian States have no military establishment.

By the agreement of the year 1844, with the protecting Government, one-fifth of the net annual general revenue of the United States is paid into the military chest for military protection.

The sum received by the Commissary-General last year on that account amounted to 5441*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.* on account of 1846-7, and 3000*l.* on account of 1847-8.

Judicial Establishment.

There is nothing to add to the observations of former years on this subject except that the benefits arising from Circuit District Courts continue to increase.

Ecclesiastical Establishment.

No alteration has taken place in the ecclesiastical establishment since the last return was completed.

Education.

In the establishments for education in these islands there has been no alteration since the last return. They consist of—

The University	.	.	.	78 students.
College	.	.	.	80 ,,
Seminary	.	.	.	16 ,,

NUMBER of SCHOLARS in the Primary and Secondary Schools of the various Islands.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Corfu	1,359	362	1,721
Cephalonia	1,209	131	1,340
Zante	1,019	140	1,159
Santa Maura	444	51	495
Ithaca	423	60	483
Cerigo	561	84	649
Paxo	263	40	303

Commerce.

The observations of last year continue to be applicable to this period. These islands have already derived benefit from the commercial treaties entered into by the Government of the protecting Sovereign with the several continental powers, and although the advantages from such treaties may have been checked by the recently disturbed state of the affairs of a great part of Europe, there can be no doubt but that when the present disturbances shall subside the commercial importance of these islands will increase.

As a proof of the progress already made I would notice the unlooked for activity with which the island of Ithaca has recently carried on its trade with the Black Sea, and the number of vessels belonging to that island and Cephalonia which have exchanged the Russian flag, under which they formerly sailed, for that of the Ionian government.

I might also add the extension of the operations of the Maritime Assurance Association, established about eight years since in Cephalonia.

Agriculture.

It has frequently been remarked in the island of Corfu that in proportion as the olive-trees are productive, and the oil market favourable, general agriculture is neglected; this has undoubtedly been the case during the present year, but in a less degree than formerly. Improvement has not been encouraged by the proceeds of a productive season, but it has not been arrested, progress has been made, and continues to be made.

Population.

The returns of population received from the several local Governments show an aggregate increase of nearly 5000, but the difficulty of obtaining accurate information on the point, explained in my former reports, renders it impossible to consider the estimate which is the result, more than an approximation. In the year 1844 the returns from Zante showed a decrease in the male population of that island; by the return of the present year, on the contrary, a more than corresponding increase has taken place.

The apparent decrease, I conclude, might be attributed to the calculation having been made at a time when many of the labouring classes were absent in the Morea and other parts of Greece, whither they are accustomed to resort in search of work at certain seasons. In like manner the apparent increase in the present return may be attributed to the annual migration having been suspended, either in consequence of the disturbed state of the kingdom of Greece, or an abundant harvest at Zante during the year 1847.

The measures adopted by the Government for the benefit of the public health appear to be efficacious. The population is increasing, though not in a ratio to require any further remark.

(Signed) SEATON.

SIERRA LEONE.

SIERRA LEONE.

(No. 88.)

No. 26.

No. 26.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Acting-Governor PINE to Earl GREY.

Government House, Sierra Leone,
October 27, 1848.

MY LORD,

(Received December 6, 1848.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book for the year 1847, together with my report thereon.

Various causes, over which I have had little control, have contributed to delay the transmission of these documents, and among them I may mention the expedition to the Sherboro' country, and the illness from which I in consequence suffered, and also the circumstance that the entire period to which the Blue Book refers, being antecedent to my temporary assumption of the affairs of the Government, embraced many subjects with which I was obliged to familiarize myself by a somewhat laborious and lengthened research.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

BENJ. C. PINE,
Acting Governor.

REPORT on the Annual BLUE BOOK of SIERRA LEONE for the
Year 1847.

In remarking upon the matter contained under the various heads into which the Blue Book is divided, I shall take the liberty of departing, in some degree, from its arrangement of those heads, for the purpose of bringing together some subjects, which, owing to their kindred nature, it seems desirable to consider as nearly as possible, under one point of view; and I shall also venture to introduce and remark upon one or two subjects, which are not mentioned by name in the Blue Book, but which are naturally suggested by some portion of its contents.

I.—*Taxes.*

The whole of the taxes levied in the colony are imposed by various ordinances of the Governor and Council, of course, confirmed by Her Majesty's Government. These consist of,

1st. Customs duties, which are—

- A. An ad-valorem duty of 4 per cent. upon all British and foreign goods imported into the colony. African produce pays no duty.
- B. An additional duty of 1*d.* per pound upon all tobacco imported.
- C. An additional duty of 2*s.* per gallon on all spirituous liquors imported, with the exception of rum, which pays an additional duty of 1*s.* only.

2nd. Other local taxes, the principal of which are—

- A. Market dues, including a tax on cattle slaughtered.
- B. A tax on horses and carriages, every horse being taxed 1*l.*, every carriage 2*l.* per annum.
- C. Auctioneers' licenses 25*l.* per annum each.
- D. Spirit licenses.

Of these imposts the customs duties are by far the most important, with regard to revenue, as will be seen under the next head of this report.

Among the other local taxes, that upon spirit licenses is the most productive; the rest are of little value to the revenue

II.—*Revenue and Expenditure.*

The revenue of the colony is derived—

1st. From duties on imports.

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2nd. From other sources ; these are—

- A. The other local taxes which are mentioned in the preceding section.
- B. Rents of factories and other places held by the Crown.
- C. Incidental receipts, such as fees on grants of land, fines awarded by courts of law, &c.

The following return exhibits the net revenue of the colony for the years 1837 to 1847, both inclusive, dividing it into the two general heads above mentioned.

Years.	Amount of Customs Duties on Imports, &c.			Amount of Revenue from other Sources, deducting Repayment of Advances and Loans, Receipts in aid of Revenue, Deposits, and the Liberated African Department.			Net Amount of Revenue.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1837	7,720	18	3	2,225	12	6½	9,946	10	9½
1838	7,232	12	3½	2,303	13	0½	9,536	5	3½
1839	11,005	11	5½	4,527	17	11½	15,533	9	5
1840	12,609	13	6	3,992	15	5½	16,602	8	11½
1841	9,071	19	0½	2,065	14	0½	11,137	13	0½
1842	7,584	13	3½	2,189	19	3½	9,774	12	7
1843	10,226	18	1½	2,337	12	6½	12,564	10	7½
1844	11,032	11	10½	2,809	19	6½	13,842	11	5½
1845	16,119	10	9	4,676	3	1	20,795	13	10
1846	13,726	10	7½	2,935	13	7½	16,662	4	2½
1847	16,371	16	10½	4,281	7	10½	20,653	4	9

By this return it will be seen, that the revenue of the colony has nearly doubled itself within the last ten years, and that this vast increase is mainly attributable to the increase in the amount received for customs' duties. It will also be observed, that the state of the revenue for 1847 is more satisfactory than that for any preceding year during the period comprised in the return. For although the total amount of revenue for 1845 is slightly above that for 1847, yet the amount of duties on imports for the latter year is greater than that of the former or any preceding year.

The following is a return of the expenditure for the above-mentioned period :—

Years.	Remittances to Agent-General to Pay Pensions and Miscellaneous Expenses incurred in England.			Amount of General Disbursements, exclusive of that Paid from Parliamentary Grant, Liberated African Department, on account of Loans and Deposits.			Net Amount of Disbursements.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1837	416	13	4	7,689	8	10½	8,106	2	2½
1838	710	10	0	12,036	13	9½	12,747	3	9½
1839	3,186	2	11½	10,785	6	4½	13,971	9	3½
1840	.	.	.	8,697	13	0½	8,697	13	0½
1841	.	.	.	12,663	3	8	12,663	3	8
1842	710	0	0	11,075	17	1½	11,785	17	1½
1843	1,015	0	0	10,862	12	7½	11,877	12	7½
1844	1,000	0	0	15,534	19	5	16,534	19	5
1845	500	0	0	21,812	13	0	22,312	13	0
1846	1,000	0	0	15,759	18	4½	16,759	18	4½
1847	5,000	0	0	20,405	7	3½	25,405	7	3½

By this return it will be seen that the expenditure of the colony has greatly increased during the period mentioned therein. This great increase is owing to the circumstance that the expense of maintaining several departments of the public service, which were formerly defrayed out of the revenue of the United Kingdom, has been thrown upon the funds of the colony. A comparison of this return with that of the revenue will also show, that for the year 1847 the expenditure has exceeded the revenue by 4752*l.* 2*s.* 6½*d.*, and that it has exceeded the expenditure for 1846, or any former year. This circumstance is attributable, partly to the increase in the amount expended upon the public

works, as will be shown under that head in this report, and partly to the large remittances which have been made to the Agent-General; and which left in his hands at the close of the year the unusually large balance in favour of the colony of 2022*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.* This sum will of course diminish the amount which it will be necessary to remit to that gentleman during the present year.

III.—*Imports and Exports.*

The value of the imports in 1847 was 116,689*l.*; that of the articles imported in 1846, 105,368*l.*

This increase is chiefly owing to the increase in the importation of spirits; upon manufactured goods, hardware, and provisions. There appears, by the customs' returns, to be a slight decrease in 1847. The imports consist of goods imported in British vessels from Great Britain and from foreign States, and in goods imported in foreign vessels from foreign States. The several amounts of imports under their heads are shown in the following table:—

Vessels.	Country.	1847
		£.
British . . . {	Great Britain . . .	89,236
	Foreign States . . .	4,087
Foreign . . . {	United States . . .	14,963
	Other Foreign States .	8,481

The imports from Great Britain consist of India goods, cotton manufactured goods, hardware, spirits, ale, wine, &c.

The commerce between the colony and the United States has greatly increased of late years, owing partly to the increased demand for American goods, partly for consumption in the colony itself, and partly to carry on the extensive commerce which has lately sprung up between the colony and the neighbouring countries, in consequence of the increased demand in Europe for ground-nuts and oil seeds.

In former years the imports from the United States consisted almost entirely of tobacco and lumber; but of late a considerable quantity of American cotton goods has been imported, those articles being in much request among the natives on account of their thickness and similitude to their own rude fabrics. None of the finer kinds of cotton goods are imported from the United States.

The foreign imports are principally from the Hanse Towns. There have lately also been several importations from Portugal of the common kinds of earthenware of that country, which seem to be prized by the people of the colony.

The number of vessels which arrived during 1847 was 185; 32 being from Great Britain, 10 from the United States, and 143 from other places; among the last are included, of course, prizes and coasting vessels.

The value of the exports in 1847, as shown by the custom returns, was 100,878*l.*; and in 1846 it was 125,818*l.*

The exports consist of teak timber, ground-nuts, camwood, ginger, pepper, ivory, gold, &c.; of these, the two first are the most important.

The timber is felled in the countries in the vicinity of the colony; the little that remains in the colony grows in situations too far removed from the water-side to bear the expense of shipping.

The ground-nut has of late years become an important article of commerce; from this nut an oil is expressed which is used in manufactures and machinery, and also, to a limited extent, for burning. Owing to the number of rail-roads which within the last few years have been opened throughout Europe, and to the admirable adaptation of this oil for lubricating and cleaning heavy machinery, it has been brought into extensive demand. The plant is grown in abundance in the neighbourhood of the colony, and its production is daily increasing to meet the increasing demand.

The value of the ground-nuts exported in 1847, as shown by the customs' records, was 21,336*l.*; but a large quantity of this article has been shipped direct from the rivers in the neighbourhood, and of course does not appear in the customs' returns. Benni seed or sesame, which produces a very fine oil, is also beginning to be grown.

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The customs' return does not include the gold exported, which, not being subject to duty in England, does not in general appear in the manifest of the vessel in which it is shipped. The amount exported in 1847 may be estimated at from 16,000*l.* to 20,000*l.* A small proportion only of the exports is the produce of the colony itself; by far the greater part being the growth of the neighbouring countries. The ginger, pepper, and arrowroot, however, which are exported, are raised in the colony, and their production is rapidly increasing.

The import trade used formerly to be in the hands of a few European merchants, but of late years it has been largely shared by native merchants; many of them liberated Africans.

The state of the revenue and navigation laws has, in my opinion, tended to check the expansion of the commerce of the colony. Its principal value, in a commercial point of view, is merely as a secure *dépôt* for the deposit of goods with which the trade with the surrounding country is to be carried on, and its situation would undoubtedly render it the emporium of the commerce of a great part of the western coast of Africa. This opinion is borne out by the circumstance that the gold trade is fast leaving its ancient channels, the Gambia, Nunez, and other places, and flowing into Sierra Leone; and that the countries contiguous to the colony are capable of producing large quantities of articles of great commercial value.

Any prohibitions or high duties must necessarily impede such a commerce as this.

In regard to the revenue laws, the British Possessions Acts, by which the trade of the colonies is regulated, do not directly apply to the colonies on the coast of Africa, but a clause is therein inserted, giving the Queen in Council the power to extend them, or a portion of them, to those possessions: no such Order in Council has been issued since 1829; so that the trade of the colony is regulated by the Possessions Acts then in force, with their long table of prohibited articles, many of the most important of which, such as rum, sugar, provisions, have been removed from that category, as to all other colonies by the more liberal spirit of modern legislation.

The operation of the navigation laws is also injurious to the commerce of the colony. Several examples of their effect readily present themselves. French and Belgian vessels coming to the colony for ground-nuts cannot bring blue bafts and other articles much in demand; they are therefore obliged to come out in ballast, or land their cargoes in the neighbouring rivers, at considerable risk. African produce also is prevented by these laws from being imported into the colony in foreign ships, to the great detriment of its trade; indeed, if these laws were enforced to the letter, the colony could not receive its necessary supplies of provisions, the greater part of which are brought from the neighbouring countries in canoes, not belonging to the colony; but the inconvenience—I had almost said the absurdity—of such a prohibition has prevented any attempts to enforce it.

IV.—*Public Works.*

The amount expended on public works during the year 1847 is 6075*l.* 8*s.* 6½*d.*, whilst that expended for the same purpose during 1846 was 3295*l.* 11*s.* 7½*d.* There has thus been an excess of expenditure under this head in 1847, as compared with the preceding year, of 2779*l.* 16*s.* 10½*d.* The following table shows upon what public works this excess of expenditure has been incurred:—

	1846			1847		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Old Market . . .	610	9	9½	1,582	3	7
Kilsy Hospital . .	96	17	7	469	5	9½
Government House .	273	3	9½	553	1	7
Wilberforce House .	.	.	.	225	16	6
Estimates generally .	628	15	0	1,651	18	11½
Streets	298	8	8½	590	5	11

The edifice erected upon the foundations of the old market-place has been completed. It is a capacious building. The under part of it is used as a bonding store, and the upper portions of it are divided into three large com-

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partments, two of which were used as offices for the Collector of Customs and the clerks, and the other was to be used as a public room. I have deemed it proper to alter this arrangement; one only of the compartments is now used as a custom-house, and another is set apart as a police office, in lieu of the miserable and leaky building formerly devoted to that purpose.

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The large amount appearing under the item of "Estimates generally," is to be partly explained by the circumstance, that a very large quantity of American timber was purchased towards the close of last year, and which has, or will be employed this year.

I should observe, under this head, that although the roads in the neighbourhood of Freetown, to the extent of two or three miles, are excellent, there is a want of good roads in other parts of the colony.

The nature of the country undoubtedly presents difficulties to the formation of carriage-roads; but still engineering skill might, to a great extent, overcome them.

V.—*Manufactures.*

Although there are no works in the colony to which the title of manufactories, as the term is commonly used, can be given, there are several branches of industry which deserve to be mentioned under this head.

Boat-building is carried on to a considerable extent; and, among others, the whole of the fishing-boats in the colony mentioned and enumerated in another section of this report, were constructed by native hands. They are carvel built, and excellent sea-boats. Several small decked vessels have lately also been built in the colony.

The art of carpentering is practised with some degree of success in the construction of the wood-work of buildings and of common pieces of furniture; but the finer and nicer branches of the art has not yet been mastered.

Masonry and building have made some progress; good and substantial houses and warehouses are seen scattered over the town, and some of the public buildings, and especially the churches, as I shall hereafter remark, are very well built edifices.

The trade of leather-dressing is exercised, to a small extent, by one or two persons in Freetown; shoes are made with the leather, and appear to wear pretty well.

Under this head I should not omit to mention the manufacture of oil which is carried on in the colony.

The oil from the ground-nut is expressed in considerable quantities by means of an oil-press belonging to Mr. R. A. Oldfield, worked by hand.

This oil meets with good sale in the colony, and is also used by nearly all the men-of-war upon the coast, especially by the steamers, as it appears to be well adapted for heavy machinery.

In the western district of the colony an oil is expressed from a nut called the Coundee-nut; it is used for burning as a light, for lubricating and cleaning iron tools and utensils, and also as a purgative medicine. It is much cheaper than ground-nutoil.

VI.—*Coins and Exchanges.*

The currency of the colony consists, 1st. of British coins, which pass at their full value.

2nd. Of threepenny and three-halfpenny pieces, which have been sent from England as colonial coins.

3rd. Of Spanish, Mexican, and South American doubloons and dollars, and French twenty-franc gold and five-franc silver pieces, all of which are in circulation in the colony at a valuation fixed by Her Majesty's proclamation. The doubloon is valued at 3*l.* 4*s.*; the dollar at 4*s.* 2*d.*; the twenty-franc piece at 15*s.* 10*d.*, and the five-franc piece at 3*s.* 10½*d.*

Within the last few years the Spanish, Mexican, and South American coins have been gradually disappearing from circulation, and now they are scarcely to be met with in any quantities. One of the causes of this circumstance I apprehend to be, that the Americans, who have lately imported largely into the colony the produce and manufactures of their own country, prefer frequently receiving doubloons and dollars in exchange, rather than run the risk of the uncertain market which the United States affords for African produce; more especially as these coins at their present value in the colony can, after paying

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freight, &c., be imported into the United States without loss. For although the dollar of Spain and her former colonies is, in common currency, only equivalent to the States dollar, yet, as I am informed, its intrinsic value being greater, it can be advantageously disposed of at the Mint as bullion.

Another cause of these coins being carried away, is the rule observed by the Commissary of only giving Government bills at stated periods, so that parties are occasionally compelled to take coins from the colony when they would take bills if they could obtain them, whenever they require them.

VII.—*Fisheries.*

Fish are very plentiful in the neighbourhood of the colony. The principal fish are enumerated in the Blue Book, page .

Although there are no public fisheries in the colony, a large number of its people are engaged in fishing both with the seine and the circular casting net. In the neighbourhood of Freetown there are 30 boats and 50 canoes employed in this occupation; and, as far as I can ascertain, there are about 40 more boats and canoes similarly employed at Kent and York, thus making an aggregate of about 120 fishing-boats and canoes in the whole colony; each of these vessels generally carries seven hands, so that we may conclude that there are about 840 persons engaged in the fishing trade. The people of the colony consume a considerable quantity of fish with their rice and foofoo; but very large quantities of it, after being smoked or partially cooked and slightly salted, are packed and sent into the interior of the country, between which and the colony it forms a somewhat important article of commerce. Some notion may be formed of the profitable nature of the fishing-trade to those engaged in it, from the pretty-well ascertained fact, that the owner of a single boat can make of clear profit as much as 10% to 15% per month.

VIII.—*Agriculture.*

The Peninsula of Sierra Leone is separated from the main land by a narrow isthmus of about a mile and a half in breadth.

The estuary of the Sierra Leone river and the Bunce river form its northern and eastern boundaries, whilst the waters of the Atlantic wash its southern and western shores.

It is traversed in almost every direction by ranges of rocky and precipitous hills, varying in height from 500 to 2600 feet above the level of the sea. The ravines which intersect the hills, as they approach the sea and the estuary, expand into valleys of inconsiderable extent. Between Freetown and Waterloo, on the eastern side of the colony, the mountains recede from the estuary for distances, varying from half a mile to three miles, and leave a belt of level ground of about 24 miles in length. Between Waterloo and Hastings, and especially in the neighbourhood of the former place, the country presents a plain surface of some extent; with these exceptions there is little level ground in the colony.

In the last-mentioned districts the soil is good, but in the other level ground the ferruginous rock of which the Peninsula is composed, is found but a few inches below the surface. It in some places constitutes its surface.

The colony then, upon the whole, is not very favourable to agriculture; but still, under the influence of a tropical sun and abundance of rain, it would not, under proper cultivation, be unproductive.

The hills, sterile as they appear, are capable of growing an excellent species of coffee, and the level ground will yield ginger, pepper, arrow-root, Indian corn, cassada, and other ordinary tropical productions; but the successful cultivation of the sugar-cane, even in the most favourable parts of the colony, I consider to be chimerical; although there are regions in the neighbourhood in which it might be raised in abundance. Still, upon the whole, it cannot be denied that the soil of the colony presents obstacles calculated to dishearten the inexperienced African agriculturist; and the more so as from his rocky hills he descries with envy the rich level land of the countries surrounding the colony, stretched out before him.

The science of agriculture in the colony is in its rudest state, the principal, almost the only implement employed is the hoe; the use of the spade, except in the gardens of a few Europeans, is unknown.

The process of cultivation is generally as follows:—The farmer, after clearing

the ground by fire, digs, or rather scratches it with his hoe, and plants it. After he has gathered his crop he abandons that spot of ground and proceeds to another, upon which he bestows the same species of culture. In populous districts, however, where vacant land is not so easy to be obtained, he permits the land he has cultivated to lie fallow for one or two years, and then returns to it.

Even under this primitive mode of cultivation, ginger, pepper, arrow-root, Indian corn, cassada, and yams, are produced in considerable quantities.

There are two or three small coffee plantations in the colony belonging to European residents, their culture is, however, greatly neglected, and they consequently produce little; but what they do yield is of a very excellent quality, and renders it a matter of regret that more attention is not paid to this article.

The proportion of land under cultivation, as stated in the Blue Book, is 32,854 acres. This must, however, be regarded as a mere approximation, as owing to the shifting mode of culture here described, and to the want of a professional survey, it is impossible to be ascertained with precision.

IX.—*Prices of Produce and Wages of Labour.*

The prices of most articles are stated at page 180 of the Blue Book.

In regard to the wages of labour, there is, I observe, a mistake in the Blue Book, in the statement that the price of predial labour is 9*d.* per diem. This may be the wages of persons other than mechanics or agricultural labourers, who are hired by the day; but predial or farm labourers can readily be hired for 10*s.* 6*d.* per month.

The following list will show the wages of the different kinds of labour :—

Domestic servants	17 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i> per mensem.
Predial	10 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> „ „
Mechanics and headsmen	1 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> to 1 <i>s.</i> 9 <i>d.</i> per diem.
Labourers other than shown	6 <i>d.</i> to 9 <i>d.</i> „ „

The price of labour has for some years past been rising. This circumstance is by some attributed entirely to emigration, which, although it has removed few persons from the body of the population, has prevented a large number of persons, brought hither in slave ships, from being thrown upon the colony as labourers. I am, however, disposed partly to trace the cause of the increased value of labour to the greater demand for labour consequent upon the improved state of the commerce of the colony.

X.—*Fruits and Esculents.*

I regret that a want of botanical knowledge will prevent me from furnishing any satisfactory information as to the vegetable productions of the colony; but some account of the fruits and esculents which flourish within its limits may not be without interest; I have therefore given lists of them, distinguishing such as are of indigenous growth from such as have been introduced into the colony from the West Indies or other quarters. This arrangement will at the same time show the progress of our community in horticultural pursuits.

1. *Indigenous Fruits.*

Banana.	Pomegranate.
Cocoa Nut.	Lime.
Orange.	Papau.
Pine Apple.	African Plum.
Guava.	

2. *Fruits that have been introduced.*

Mango.	Water Melon.
Shaddock.	Rose Apple.
Avocado Pear.	Bread Fruit.
Custard Apple.	Almond.
Sour Sop.	Date.
Granadilla.	Bread Nut.
Tamarind.	Barbadoes Cherry.
Mammee Apple.	Grapes.

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3. *Indigenous Esculents, &c.*

Yam.	Okro.
Plantain.	Pumpkin.
Indian Corn.	Cassada.
Sweet Potatoe.	Spinach.

4. *Esculents, &c., which have been introduced.*

French Beans.	Lettuce.
Cucumbers.	Raddishes.
Peas.	Cabbage.

Many of the fruits mentioned in list 2, such as the tamarind, mango, sour sop, were introduced some years ago, and are now extremely plentiful in the colony; others have been imported at a later period, and are only to be met with in the gardens of Government officers and others.

The introduction of several of the choicer species of fruits is due to the intercourse which has of late years arisen between the West Indies and the colony in consequence of emigration.

The esculents enumerated in list 4 have for the most part been introduced from England; but they thrive well in the colony, especially French beans and cabbage, which are tolerably abundant.

XI.—*Form of Government.*

The government, as settled by the charter, resides in the Governor, and the Board of the Governor and Council.

The executive portion of the government is vested in the Governor, whose powers are defined and regulated by the charter and the royal instructions under the sign manual.

The legislative part of the government resides in the Board of the Governor and Council. It is composed of seven or more members. The Chief Justice, the Queen's Advocate, and the Colonial Secretary are ex-officio members of the Council, the other members are appointed by the Crown, generally on the recommendation of the Governor, from among the most influential and respectable persons in the colony.

The powers of the Council are, to make laws and ordinances for the regulation of the affairs of the colony, and incidentally to control, in some degree, the expenditure of the colony.

The Council sits with closed doors, and its members are sworn to secrecy.

XII.—*Administration of Justice.*

The Courts in the colony for the administration of justice are,—

1. The Court of Oyer and Terminer and General Gaol delivery. This tribunal is constituted by the charter of the colony: its judges are the Chief Justice and the Members of Council, who are in this capacity styled Commissioners. The Court is, however, constituted by the presence of one Member of Council with the Chief Justice.

The Court possesses in the colony the same jurisdiction as a Criminal Court of Assize in England. The proceedings are conducted as nearly as possible after the English model, except that the Queen's Advocate conducts the prosecutions as public prosecutor.

The indictments, however, are presented by a grand jury as in England.

2. The Court constituted under the Royal Commission for the trial of offences committed upon the high seas and other places out of the Queen's dominions. Its judges are the Governor, the Chief Justice, the Members of Council, and the senior naval officer present in the colony.

3. The Court of the Recorder of Freetown. The judges of the Court are the Chief Justice and two such Members of the Council as the Governor may from time to time appoint; they usually hold office for about a-year, when they are relieved by the appointment of two other Members of Council. They are called Assistant Judges, and receive no salary. The jurisdiction of the Court extends to all common law civil actions which are beyond the jurisdiction of the Small Debt Court mentioned below. Whether this Court has the jurisdiction possessed by the Queen's Bench in England, as to criminal matters,

and issue writs of mandamus and quo warranto, may be doubted, notwithstanding the opinion in the affirmative of the late able Chief Justice Rankin. The charter would appear to give it nearly the same jurisdiction as that of the Common Pleas in England. It has, however, repeatedly exercised the jurisdiction of a Court of Exchequer as to debts due to the Crown, and it seems to be entitled to that jurisdiction *ex necessitate*, since, otherwise the Crown would in many cases be without a means of enforcing its claims.

The process and pleadings used in the Court are as nearly as possible the same as those used in the superior Courts of law in England. They are scarcely adapted to the circumstances of the colony. A local ordinance has passed the second reading to define the jurisdiction of this Court, and to give the judge the power to remodel the system of practice and pleading.

4. The Court of Chancery. This tribunal is presided over by the Governor, who is Chancellor *ex-officio*. It has the same jurisdiction within the colony which the Court of Chancery possesses in England. The process and pleadings adopted in the Court are nearly the same as those used in England. Owing to the cumbersome and expensive nature of its proceedings, the Court is seldom resorted to by suitors, although there not unfrequently arise in the colony cases in which the interference of a Court of Equity would be very desirable. The circumstance that the judge of the Court (the Governor) is not in general qualified to decide points of law, forms another obstacle to proceeding in this Court.

5. The Court of the Ordinary has jurisdiction as to probate of wills, letters of administration, marriage licences, and has also the superintendence of the collecting and winding up of the estates of intestate persons and others, by virtue of the ordinance passed last year "for the protection of unrepresented estates." The Governor is ordinary *ex-officio*, and he formerly exercised the functions of Judge of the Court, but by an ordinance passed in 1847 he has been relieved of those duties, which are transferred to the Chief Justice for the time being.

The proceedings of the Court are similar to those used in an Ecclesiastical Court in England and ought to be simplified.

6. The Court of Vice-Admiralty has similar jurisdiction to that possessed by such Courts in the West Indies. A large portion of its business consists in adjudicating upon certain vessels engaged in the slave trade. The following classes of vessels are subject to its jurisdiction:—

- 1st. British vessels, under 5 Geo. IV. cap. 114.
- 2nd. Brazilian vessels, under Vic. cap. 122.
- 3rd. Vessels which have no papers to show that they are entitled to any national flag, under 2 and 3 Vic. cap. 73.

There is a registrar attached to the Court. The proceedings and fees are regulated by the instructions issued under the authority of statute 2nd Wm. IV. cap. 51.

7. The Police Court, which is now presided over by a stipendiary magistrate appointed from England, with a fixed salary of 500*l*. The duties and powers of this Court are nearly identical with those of similar tribunals in England.

8. The Small Debt Court. This Court is presided over by the stipendiary magistrate, assisted by unpaid Commissioners, appointed for a limited period by the Governor. It possesses jurisdiction to decide upon pleas of debt when the amount sought to be recovered does not exceed 10*l*.

XIII.—*Legislation.*

The only ordinances which have been passed, during 1847, are—

- 1st. An ordinance to provide for the protection and administration of unrepresented estates.
- 2nd. An ordinance to constitute the Chief Justice judge of the Court of the Ordinary.
- 3rd. An ordinance to amend an ordinance for improving the police of Free-town.
- 4th. The usual annual ordinance to provide for the support of the establishment of the colony.

The object of the first of these ordinances is to provide for the protection, first, of estates of deceased persons who may leave no representatives within the colony; secondly, of estates of living persons who may be absent from the colony without having an agent therein. Both classes of estates are to be

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placed under the care of an officer called the Receiver of Unrepresented Estates. Those of the first class he is to wind up and administer according to the provisions of the ordinance; with those of the second class he is to interfere no further than to provide for their due protection, until they are claimed by the owner or his representative.

If the provisions of this ordinance be carried into effect by a person duly qualified to act as protector, it will be of incalculable benefit, not only to individuals but to the commerce of the colony, by putting an end to that iniquitous system of plundering, under pretence of administering the estates of deceased persons, which threw disgrace upon the colony, and destroyed the confidence of the home merchant in trusting his property in a community where such enormities were permitted.

The intention of the second ordinance is to transfer from the Governor to the Chief Justice the decision of the cases which occur in the Court of the Ordinary.

The two remaining ordinances require no remark.

XIV.—*Climate.*

The comparative healthiness which the colony had enjoyed for some years previously to 1847 had begun to excite hopes that some permanent improvement had taken place in its climate.

The fearful epidemic however, in the forms of yellow fever and of malignant remittent fever which visited the colony during that year, has shown that such hopes were delusive, and that the settlement still merits the fatal celebrity which it has acquired.

In the rainy season of that year 11 European residents were carried off by yellow fever, 6 by remittent fever, and 6 by other diseases, no doubt partly aggravated if not induced by climatorial influence.

The causes which produce these dreadful visitations are still, to a great extent, hidden in obscurity; but some observations which were made during the late epidemic appear to me to throw a partial light upon the subject.

1st. The first case of yellow fever occurred on the 3rd of July. The deaths from yellow fever were—

In July	7
August	3
September	1
Total	<hr/> 11 <hr/>

From the 28th of May to the 24th of June, a period of 28 days, the fall of rain was 13·86 inches. From the 25th of June to the 4th of August, a period of 41 days, the fall of rain was only 9·38 inches. It is during the latter period that most of the cases of yellow fever occurred.

From the 5th to the 25th of August there fell 16·59 inches of rain. From the 26th to the 31st of the same month 1·10 inches only. During the former period only two deaths occurred from yellow fever, one being a case of relapse. During the latter short period one death occurred on shore and several among sailors on board of ships.

From the 1st to the 14th of September there was 11·92 inches of rain, and from the 15th to the 21st only 1·61 inches. During the latter period the last reported case of yellow fever occurred and proved fatal.

The difference of temperature between the above-mentioned four months in 1847 and the corresponding ones in the year 1848 is so small as scarcely to deserve attention.

	1847.	1848.
The mean temperature of June was	77·08	77·50
" " July	75·63	75·48
" " August	74·55	75·35
" " September	75·08	75·35

The moisture of the atmosphere, too, in each year, presents very little difference. The dew-point was in—

	1847.	1848.
June	71·70	72·63
July	70·47	70·83
August	69·77	71·63
September	71·70	72·17

The portion of sky overcast by clouds was nearly the same in both years. Supposing the whole sky divided into 100 parts, there was obscured by cloud of these parts in

	1847.	1848.
June	76	78
July	85	84
August	88	86
September	84	86

These conditions of the atmosphere are so alike in both years that little can be ascribed to them in the production of the yellow fever in 1847.

Its great producing cause seems to have been the extreme scantiness of the rain during the greater part of that period, in which it manifested itself.

During the wet season of this year, on the contrary, the rain has fallen abundantly and regularly. In this period only two white residents have died, and these not of fever or any diseases peculiar to the climate.

The following table shows the fall of rain during the above-mentioned four months in 1847 and 1848 respectively:—

	1847.	1848.
June	13·21	10·73
July	6·94	26·18
August	18·74	22·46
September	18·17	42·40

The following is a table of the number of days on which rain fell in those months, excluding those on which there were slight showers only, or less than ·10 inch in 24 hours:—

	1847.	1848.
June	17	19
July	12	24
August	21	23
September	20	26

In the suburbs on the south-west of Freetown lies a locality nearly covered with huts called the grass-field. It is a bed of rock full of large holes and fissures in which the water lodges, becomes putrid, and throws up an exhalation, which in the mornings and evenings may be seen hanging over the spot like a gauze veil.

In the rainy season the wind blows from the south-west, and of course carries this exhalation towards the body of Freetown. A part of the town is sheltered from its influence by that spur of Tower Hill, upon which stands the Government-house, but another part is within its range. During the last epidemic it was observed and pointed out by Mr. Lawson, Staff Surgeon and Principal Medical Officer, that a large number of the persons seized with the fever resided in the last-named portions of the town, and that most Europeans who lived within its limits were at one time or another in this season afflicted with fever or some form of disease generally supposed by medical men to be produced by exposure to marshy miasmata.

A consideration of these circumstances lead to the conjecture that although the state of the weather in seasons when the rain falls in small quantities at a time, is the main cause of those periodical epidemics, and that it is therefore beyond the power of man wholly to avert them, yet that the operation of this cause may in some measure be weakened by a proper attention to drainage.

As Mr. Lawson had frequently expressed his opinion that the draining of the above-mentioned locality would be of essential service to the salubrity of the town, I requested that gentleman, with the assistance of the colonial surveyors, to have the goodness to survey the place and report upon the practicability of the measure he proposed. That report is subjoined in an Appendix hereto, and will, I humbly think, be perused with interest by his Lordship the Secretary of State.

Whilst upon the subject of the climate, I would offer an observation as to the classes of persons best adapted to withstand its influence. In this respect the negro undoubtedly holds the first rank; but it may be a question of greater

SIERRA LEONE.

difficulty than is generally supposed to determine whether upon the whole persons of colour are better able to bear up against the effects of the climate, than persons of pure European blood; on the one hand there can be little doubt that the latter upon their first arrival in the colony are in greater danger than the former of losing their lives by the remittent fever, but when once they have got over that trial, they seem generally, provided they are temperate in their habits, to resist the climatorial influence better than the coloured people. I have remarked that the latter class of persons in the Colonial Service are, as a body, more frequently upon the sick list than their European brother officers.

For the information contained in this section in regard to the epidemic of 1847, and to the atmospheric phenomena of that year, I am indebted to Mr. Lawson.

XV.—*Population.*

The total population of this colony, according to the Census for 1847, is 45,006, which is an increase of about 2000 as compared with 1846. But, owing to the imperfect manner in which the Census is taken, its returns cannot be altogether depended upon.

The following table, taken from the Census return, shows the different classes of which the population is composed:—

Europeans	95
Maroons	460
Nova Scotia settlers.	568
American black people from Liberia	90
West Indies	104
Liberated Africans	40,026
Mandingo Soussoos and Foulahs	1,074
Sherboros and others	1,530
Kroomen	730
Aliens and transient strangers, about	1,000

Owing to the circumstance that, in the return of the Census, under the head of liberated Africans, not only persons actually liberated from slavery, but also their descendants are included, it is impossible to state with accuracy what proportion these two classes bear to each other. I am, however, of opinion that considerably more than half the persons mentioned under this head were born in the colony. It is also impossible, although it would be very interesting, to ascertain the relative numbers of the various tribes or nations into which the liberated Africans are divided. By far the largest part of them are the Akoos. They are a very industrious and enterprising people, and their exertions have materially tended to the advancement of the prosperity of the colony. Several among their number have amassed considerable wealth. They are, moreover, a very orderly people, and exhibit great respect for constituted authority.

The next tribe in point of number to the Akoos is that of the Eboes, who are also an industrious people, whilst their energies can be directed to trade, but their inclination does not prompt them to devote themselves to agricultural pursuits: several persons among them have also acquired considerable property. They also, in general, display a respect for the authority of Government.

The other tribes are the Kusoos, Papaws, Calabars, Congoes, Mokos, Houssas, and others; their numbers, however, bear but a small proportion to the two first-mentioned tribes.

It would be unjust towards the liberated Africans to withhold from them my testimony to the orderly and peaceable manner in which they conduct themselves in the colony, and to the zeal and alacrity which the more influential among them have, upon many occasions, displayed in lending support to the Government when for any purpose it was required. This conduct is the more remarkable when we consider that they are composed of tribes, many of which, in their own countries, bore towards each other intense hatred and animosity; and that they have been subjected to all the moral degradation which slavery brings in its train.

XVI.—*Education.*

The total number of children who attended school in 1847 was 6032, which, compared with the number attending school in the preceding year, shows a diminution of 1649. This diminution is principally in the number of children

attending the Government schools, which is much less than in the preceding year, and the number attending Wesleyan schools, which is also less than in 1846. There is, on the other hand, an increase in the number of scholars in the Church Missionary schools in 1847 over the number in 1846. This decrease in the number of children in the Government schools may be accounted for by the fact that a large number of liberated African children, who were at school in 1846, have been since removed and apprenticed, and their room has not since been supplied by newly-emancipated children.

Some account of the systems of education adopted in these various schools may not be without interest.

1st. *The Government Schools*.—Bell's and Lancaster's systems are those professedly adopted in these schools. The instruction is deplorably defective, consisting of little more than the teaching the children to read and write, without understanding the meaning of the words which they employ. The teachers are generally inadequate to the task of rational instruction.

2nd. *The Church Missionary Day-schools*.—The plan of education adopted in these schools appears to me very superior to that pursued in the preceding class of schools. It embraces, besides reading and writing, geography, mental arithmetic, and Biblical history; and throughout the teaching there is some demand made upon the reason as well as upon the memory of the child.

3rd. *The Wesleyan Schools*.—The system adopted in these schools is that of the British and Foreign School Society. It consists of instruction in English grammar, arithmetic, geography, &c.

4th. *The Grammar School*.—This institution was established a few years since by the Church Missionary Society, principally for the purpose of affording to the children of persons of some property in the colony an education of a higher character than that given in the ordinary schools. It is under the able superintendence of the Rev. T. Peyton, a clergyman of the Church Missionary Society.

The course of education pursued in this school consists of instruction in the English, Latin, and Greek languages, arithmetic, the elements of mathematics, and natural philosophy. I have been present at several of the periodical examinations of the boys, and have great pleasure in bearing testimony to the creditable manner in which they acquitted themselves.

It may, as remarked by the late Governor Fergusson in his Report on the Blue Book for 1845, be taken as no unfair criterion of the position in the social scale at which the people here have arrived, that such an establishment is at length acknowledged to have become necessary.

5th. *The Fourah Bay Institution*, the object of which is to educate a certain number of native young men for the Christian ministry, in order to enable them to proceed as missionaries into the interior of the country. The course of study embraces, besides Divinity, Greek, general history, geometry, algebra, geography, English composition, and music. The president of the institution is the Rev. Edward Jones, under whose efficient tuition it has made great progress, and several of its students have, I believe, passed very creditable examinations before the Bishop of London previously to ordination.

6th. *The Wesleyan Institution*.—The objects of this establishment are similar to those of the preceding one, and it is, I believe, very well conducted.

7th. There are a good many other schools in the colony belonging to the other sects of Christians. They in general adopt, I believe, Bell's system of instruction. The Mahometans have also schools, and appear to take great pains in instructing their young in reading the Koran in Arabic.

XVII.—Crime.

Number of persons convicted during 1846 and 1847 respectively, are,—

	1846	1847
For murder	2	0
For other felonies	49	84
For misdemeanors	4	2

These numbers are larger than they ought to be, considering the amount of the population. A great majority of the felonies are cases of larceny, a species of offence which has of late years been on the increase; and I regret to say that the greater part of the offenders are not driven to crime by the pressure of want, but are systematic thieves. The number of such persons in the community is not, however, so large as might, from the number of convictions, be

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supposed, as the same individuals are over and over again brought before the Court.

The two cases of murder which occurred in 1846 were committed by Spaniards belonging to a slave vessel.

The revival of corporal punishment, which took place at the end of 1847, will, I have no doubt, check the progress of crime; indeed, a marked diminution is already perceptible, and the Report on the Blue Book for this year upon this head will, I think, be more satisfactory.

XVIII.—*Religion.*

The religious denominations existing in the colony are the Church of England, Wesleyan Methodists, Huntingtonian, Baptist, and one or two other sects which have seceded from the Wesleyans.

The proportion of the population adhering to these several persuasions, as stated in the Blue Book, are as follows:—

Church of England	. 6547	Baptists, probably about	200
Wesleyan	. 4730	Other sects.	2191
Huntingtonian	. 1178		

These returns, however, cannot be depended upon, as it is very difficult to procure correct information upon the subject.

In the last Report of the Wesleyan Methodist Society, the total number of persons attending public worship is stated to be upwards of 7000; this, however, includes the children attending schools, and it is possible that the return furnished to the Secretary for the Blue Book may exclude the latter class, and thus the discrepancy may, perhaps, be accounted for. From all the information I can gather upon the subject, I am of opinion that the total number of persons who attend some kind of Christian worship is not less than 20,000.

The only church belonging to the Government is that of St. George in Freetown, at which the Governor and the other public functionaries generally attend. The service is extremely well performed. Some portions of the Liturgy are chaunted by children attending the school, in a very creditable manner. There is, however, no organ, a circumstance much to be regretted. The colonial chaplain, who is at present the Rev. T. E. Poole, officiates at this church. He has in addition to perform Divine service at the gaol, and to attend to the ordinary clerical duties within the parish of St. George, which includes the whole of Freetown and its suburbs. He is remunerated by a salary of 500*l.* per annum paid out of the funds of the colonial Government.

The Church Missionary Society supplies all the other episcopal clergymen, nine in number. It has churches in almost every important village in the colony. These are built of stone, and are generally very creditable erections; indeed some of them are equal to the ordinary run of country churches in England.

The clergymen belonging to this Society are as a whole a well-educated body of men, and well adapted to their peculiar vocation. Some of them are possessed of talents and learning which would command respect even in the Church at home. The efforts of the Church Missionary Society have been, upon the whole, very successful, and the colony is under deep obligations to it for its exertions in the cause of religion and education.

The Wesleyan Mission has four ministers in the colony besides several native lay preachers. They possess 15 chapels, seven in Freetown, the others in various villages about the colony. The members sent from England are generally zealous and excellent men and have undoubtedly done a vast deal of good.

There are at least 30 chapels belonging to the other sects of Christians. Their ministers are persons of colour, engaged in some secular occupations; two of the most esteemed of these are pilots. I feel great pleasure in stating that the clergymen and ministers of these several denominations generally manifest towards each other the most friendly and Christianlike feelings.

This view of the religious denominations in the colony would be incomplete if I neglected to give some account of that unhappy portion of our population, who have not yet embraced the Christian doctrine. These are either Mahomedans or Pagans. The Mahomedans residing in the colony are in number about 2000. A large number of these are undoubtedly Mandingoes, Soussoos, and other people from the adjacent country who have settled in the colony; but many of them are liberated Africans, principally of the Akoo tribe, a part

of whom have in their own country been converted to that religion by Foulah or Mandingo priests. The Mahomedans generally reside together in the suburbs of the town, and, except in the way of trade, hold little intercourse with the other people of the colony.

What number of Pagans there may be in the colony it is difficult to ascertain. It has been shown that the total population of the colony is about 45,000, and that the number of persons attending Christian and Mahomedan worship is about 23,000; but it would be unfair to infer that the whole of the remainder of the people are heathens, as there are in this, as in other communities, a number of persons nominally Christians, who do not attend any church. From all the inquiries, however, which I have made upon the point, I am led to conclude the number of pagans in the colony cannot be less than 12,000 to 15,000.

They are of course divided into various persuasions.

Among them the worshippers of thunder and lightning are remarkable. They adore these phenomena as direct emanations of Deity, and, during the storms which at certain seasons disturb the tropical night, the stillness which prevails in the intervals between the peals of thunder is broken by the wild chants with which these mistaken people celebrate the honours of their god. The followers of this superstition are principally Akoos, a portion of which tribe are addicted to it in their own country; though the majority of them in the colony have been converted to Christianity, not a few persons in the community, and some of them professing Christianity, believe that these thunder worshippers, and indeed the Akoos generally, hold some mysterious communion with the lightning, by which they are enabled to direct its course against their enemies; and, upon a recent occasion, when the house of a Maroon was struck by the fluid, and the man himself killed on the spot, I heard several persons attributing the disaster to "those bad Akoo men." Some also of the Pagan inhabitants worship serpents and other reptiles, whom they feed with the greatest care.

There are, moreover, some who openly worship the Devil. They convince themselves of the necessity of this practice by the same wild arguments which have satisfied savages following a similar persuasion in other parts of the world. Although they believe in the existence of a God, the author of all good, they also conceive that he is not omnipotent, but that his authority is disputed and controlled by the Spirit of Evil. Persuaded that God, prompted by the beneficence of His nature, will bestow every blessing in his power without solicitation, their only anxiety is to appease, by prayer and sacrifices, the wrath of the enemy of mankind.

A belief in the powers of magic and witchcraft, and in the efficacy of charms and philtres, is prevalent among nearly the whole of the Pagan and Mahomedan people, and is not wholly eradicated from the minds of a large number of persons who profess Christianity.

It may at first view be a matter of surprise that, after all the exertions, pains, and expense, which have been employed in civilizing the colony and converting its inhabitants to Christianity, so considerable a number of mistaken worshippers should exist within its limits; but let it be remembered that a large portion of the people have but recently arrived in the colony in slave ships, bringing with them the superstitions of their own land; that every new importation of such persons not only directly adds to the heathen part of the community, but that their intercourse with the resident population checks the progress of missionary labour, by reviving in the minds of partial converts to Christianity the recollection and, with it, the love of that form of superstition which was instilled into them in their childhood.

It should also be borne in mind that the settlement is a mere speck of earth on the edge of this vast continent, and that it is bordered upon by numerous tribes of heathen people, many of whom, allured by the security which our laws and institutions afford, perpetually come to settle within our boundaries.

If, then, all these circumstances be considered, so far from its seeming strange that so many Pagans and Mahomedans should exist in the colony, it will furnish a subject of wonder that their number is not more considerable.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

BENJ. C. PINE,
Acting Governor.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

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Encl. in No. 26.

Enclosure in No. 26.

APPENDIX TO REPORT ON BLUE BOOK, 1847.

SIR,

Sierra Leone, October 25, 1848.

WE have the honour to report, for the information of his Honour the Acting Governor, that, in compliance with the instructions conveyed in the letter, No. 159, dated 2nd June, 1848, from your office, appointing us members of a commission for the purpose of inspecting the Grassfield, and reporting upon the best means which can be employed, at a small expense, of draining that locality, we have minutely examined that portion of the town, and now submit the following remarks thereon for his Honour's consideration:—

That part of Freetown, called the Grassfield, lies, as shown in the accompanying plan, between the Saunders' Brook and Alligator Brook, the former to the east and the latter to the west and south-west.

Taking a line from Saunders' Brook south-westward, the surface gradually sinks until it reach the blue line in the plan, which lies about midway between the brooks, and from that it again rises a little until it approach the Alligator Brook, within a short distance from which point it again sinks towards that stream, or in some places remains nearly level.

Following the blue line in the centre of the plan, from its origin at Campbell-street downwards to Kroo-town Road, there is a nearly regular fall of $46\frac{1}{2}$ feet, and the general inclination of the ground to the right and left of that line for a considerable distance is equally marked and in the same direction. The highest ground between Saunders' Brook and the blue line is from three to five feet higher than the surface in the corresponding parts of that line, and to the westward the difference of level between the highest ground and lowest corresponding points in the course of the line varies from two to nine feet.

Whatever soil is found over the Grassfield has been carefully collected by the inhabitants, on lots surrounding their houses, and the streets consequently display everywhere the bare rock, the irregularities and hollows on the surface of which retain large quantities of water after rain, and collect all the mud and dirt produced by the gradual disintegration of the rock.

In consequence of the very gradual inclination, on either side, towards the central blue line in the plan, and the irregularities of the surface, the water, though it runs towards this line from either side, does not find a ready or complete vent, but accumulates in large pools in every direction, and in many cases the inhabitants require to dig a trench round their huts, to reduce, as much as they can, the inconvenience of having them flooded after heavy rain, while the rest of the lot, from the want of proper drainage, remains in such a wet state as to interfere most materially with its productiveness, and to add much to the discomfort of the inhabitants.

On the accompanying plan the extent of surface over which the water lies is coloured blue, and from the beginning to the end of the rainy season, this space always contains much stagnant water. When at any time the fall of rain becomes scanty, and the pools begin to diminish by evaporation, a very intense malaria arises from these localities, exercising a most injurious influence over the health of all who are within the range of the miasmata emanating from them. This was remarkably displayed in the summer of 1847, in which the rains were scanty and irregular, and when nearly every white person who lived to the westward of Pademba-road and Walpole-street suffered, at one time or another, from some form of malarious disease, and there is every reason to believe that many cases of sickness which occur to persons living in other parts of the town may be referred to the same source.

It is, obviously, a matter of great importance to reduce this source of disease to the utmost, by adopting such a system of drainage as will enable the water to run off readily from the hollows on the surface and neighbouring grounds, instead of, as at present, allowing it to remain until gradually dissipated by evaporation.

To effect this desirable end, we are of opinion that a main drain should be cut from Kroo town road backwards to Campbell-street, along the lowest level, of sufficient dimensions and depth to afford a free course to the water, and to give sufficient fall to admit of a series of small side drains, extending along the streets on either side, discharging themselves fully into it. This main drain, to accomplish these objects, we conceive would require to be $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide, and from 2 feet to $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep, according to the inequalities of the surface. The course of the drain is indicated by a strong red line in the accompanying plan, and it deviates but little from that actually taken by the water at present.

To afford a free discharge to the water brought down by the main drain, it will be necessary to form a culvert across the Kroo-town road of greater dimensions than that at present there, and it would add to the freedom of the discharge if it were made directly opposite the termination of the drain.

The system of side drains which it is proposed to make would, of course, be much smaller in size than the main. A width of 15 inches, it appears to us, would meet every object; the depth would be variable, but in every case should be sufficient to run off the water from the bottom of every hollow or pool in the neighbourhood. We think, from looking at the levels and the nature of the surface, that an average depth of 15 inches would answer every purpose.

Taking the size of the drains at that stated above, the probable expense in completing them we have estimated as below.

	£.	s.	d.
To 800 yards run of main drain, at 5s. per yard	200	0	0
To 6512 yards run of surface drain, at 2s. 6d., and			
levelling streets	814	0	0
5 per cent., contingencies	50	14	0
	<hr/>		
	£1064	14	0

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In conclusion, we strongly recommend for his Honour's consideration that, should the views we have developed be approved of, that the main drain should be commenced as early as possible, as a free escape for the surface water in that direction would be of great immediate advantage to the inhabitants of the Grassfield.

SIERRA LEONE.

We have, &c.,

(Signed) ROB. LAWSON, Staff Surgeon, 1st Class, P. M. O.
GABRIEL FLECK, Colonial Surveyor and Engineer.
GEO. W. NICOL, 1st Writer.
EDWARD BAGE, Assistant Colonial Surveyor and Engineer.

William Fergusson, Esq., Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

GOLD COAST.

GOLD COAST.

(No. 113.)

No. 27.

No. 27.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut-Governor WINNIETT to Earl GREY.

MY LORD,

Cape Coast Castle, December 31, 1847.
(Received March 2, 1848.)

I BEG to forward to your Lordship the "Blue Book" in duplicate, for the year 1847, accompanied by my own Report.

In this statement, I have confined my remarks principally to those subjects which I conceived to be of much public interest, and respecting which, I have had an opportunity to become more intimately acquainted with.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

W. WINNIETT, Lieut.-Governor.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

SPECIAL REPORT upon the BLUE BOOK.

Population.

During the space of the last 16 years, a most extraordinary change has taken place in the aspect of the population of the various districts which have enjoyed the advantages of being within the range of British jurisdiction. Its numerical increase has been very great, as may be daily proved by the numerous new villages which are rising on every hand. It may not be saying too much, to state that, during the time above-mentioned, the villages in the Fantee country, and among the Assins, have increased on an average about 15 per cent. The character of the native dwellings is also greatly improved; and, consequently, many of the towns and villages wear an aspect of permanency and durability, which seem altogether new. Associated with this interesting advancement in civilization, is another gratifying feature, namely, a taste for articles of furniture of European manufacture, and European clothing; the change which has taken place in this respect, during the last 11 years, is almost incredible. It is to be hoped, that the advantages of the fostering care of the British Government, and the onward progress of the Christian religion, for a few years to come, will give to the native population of the Gold Coast, &c., an aspect somewhat similar to that which is now exhibited in the West India islands.

No census of the native population of this colony, has ever been attempted to be taken, from certain data; however, it may be safely assumed, that the aggregate number of the population of these districts which acknowledge, and are amenable to the jurisdiction of this Government, is not less than 275,000 scattered over a territory of about 6000 square miles. This population have no manufactures (worthy of the name) existing amongst them, but may be divided into three classes, viz.: agriculturists, traders, and fishermen.

The number of Whites at present in the colony, is 40, of whom there are seven females.

Agriculture.

During the course of the last nine years, the cultivation of coffee has been introduced into the colony, and the results prove, that, by a careful selection of soils and situations, and proper attention to the best modes of culture, this

GOLD COAST.

article of commerce may be grown to almost any extent; and the flavour of the coffee grown in this colony seems to be quite equal to that which is grown in the islands of Princes' and St. Thomas. The general system of agriculture now existing among the natives of this colony seems to be the same as that which has existed for ages past, but the increase of population in the Fantee country, seems to have led to the cultivation of much larger tracts of land than those which were formerly occupied for agricultural purposes. The soils of the Gold Coast seem to be much more adapted for the cultivation of the coffee plant and other small shrubs, such as spices, &c., than for the sugar-cane or rice; for those latter tropical plants, the land seems to be too dry, and of too great an altitude. The sugar-cane is cultivated by the natives for purely private purposes, but it does not seem likely that the soils would be fit for its successful cultivation on an extensive scale.

The Palm tree (*elais Guineensis*.) grows spontaneously throughout the whole of this part of Western Africa; and is, to the natives, a fruitful source of wealth. It is probable, that much might be done in improving the Palm-oil trade by constraining and influencing the natives to cultivate the Palm tree.

From the method of cropping adopted by the natives in this colony, it is difficult to form even an approximate estimate of the average quantity of land under cultivation. There are few or no regularly cleared farms or plantations (save for plantains), the ground being never effectively cleared of the roots of the trees or brushwood; but, after one crop, the bush is again allowed to grow for several years.

The quantity of land generally under cultivation in any one year, may be stated as follows:—28,000 acres producing 1,100,000 bushels of Maize; 24,000 acres producing Yams; 20,000 acres producing Cassava; and 15,000 acres producing Plantains. These products are of excellent quality. The average price of Maize may be quoted at 1*s.* 2*d.* per bushel, and the average prices of Yams, Cassava, and Plantains at 1*d.* per pound. The number of horned cattle in the colony is about 800; of sheep, 2000; and of goats, 1200.

Public Works.

The principal thing on this head, affecting the interests of the colony, is easy communication betwixt towns and villages by good roads. During the course of the past five or six years, a little has been done in the colony in this branch of public improvement, but it has been nothing equal to, or at all corresponding with, the important claims of such a question. The roads are, generally speaking, exceedingly bad, and they are a great drawback to the advancement of civilization.

The importance of the occupancy of various stations in the colony by small detachments of troops seems to be almost incalculable. There is, perhaps, not a single circumstance of any importance connected with either the domestic polity of the various tribes of natives or with those extraneous civil, commercial, and religious questions which bear upon the welfare of the colony, which does not owe something to the moral influence produced by this kind of military occupation. Could all those forts which were occupied in various parts of the Gold Coast, &c., in by-gone days, be restored to a good state of repair and again judiciously occupied, the results would, in all probability, be of the highest importance in aiding the advancement of the moral regeneration of this part of Africa.

For the buildings now in progress under the heads of Public Works, I beg to refer your Lordship to the Blue Book.

Education.

Connected with the general branches of education, *model schools*, for the instruction and training of boys in the knowledge of various useful mechanical arts, are most important desiderata. At present there is no employment for educated boys, except as teachers in the schools, and clerks in government and mercantile establishments, and hence the results of education, pleasing as they may be, are not so healthy, vigorous, and permanent as they would be if they were associated with various branches of useful mechanical knowledge. These desiderata are greatly worthy of the attention of an enlightened Government. For a lengthened, and I trust a satisfactory report of schools on the Gold Coast, see Blue Book.

Exchanges, Monies, Weights, and Measures.

Course of Exchange.—Gold dust being the commercial currency of the colony (gold being valued at 4*l.* currency per ounce); and the net value of an ounce of gold dust remitted to England being on an average 3*l.* 12*s* sterling per ounce, after deducting the charges for freight, insurance, commission, &c., the course of exchange is generally quoted at 11*l.* 1 premium for bills on England at three days' sight, that is to say, a bill upon England for 90*l.* sterling will purchase here 25 ounces of gold, equal to 100*l.* currency. There being but few British coins in circulation, bills granted in exchange for them are negotiated at par.

Coins.—Gold dust is the principal currency of the colony, and all large payments are made in it. The coins in circulation are British gold, silver, and copper coins, Spanish and South American doubloons, dollars, and half dollars, and a few French five-franc pieces.

The amount of Coins in Circulation.—All commercial payments being (with occasional exceptions) made in gold dust, the amount of coins in circulation is generally very small. The average amount in circulation during the year 1847, may be stated as follows:—

British coins	£1500
Spanish and South American coins	2000
Coins of other nations	200

Accounts kept in.—Merchants accounts are kept in pounds, shillings, and pence. Accounts between merchants and native traders are kept in ounces, ackies, and takus. The commercial currency of the colony is gold dust, gold being valued at 4*l.* per ounce.

Weights.—The weight in use for every article, save gold and silver, are the avoirdupois weights of England. For gold and silver, troy weights are used.

Measures.—The measures of length, surface, and volume in use, are the imperial standard measures of length, surface, and volume of England. The measures of capacity used are the old English wine gallon of 231 cubic inches, with their respective sub-divisions.

Gaols and Prisons.

The gaols at Cape Coast are situated within the walls of the Castle, and are sufficiently large to contain three times the number of prisoners that are generally confined in them.

There is great attention paid to the comforts, and especially to the cleanliness of the prisoners. The gaol being so immediately under my own observation, I can at once detect any irregularities should they occur.

The gaols at Dixcove, Annamboe, and Accra, are also situated within the walls of the fort, and the same attention paid to their comforts as at Cape Coast. In visiting those places, I always question the prisoners as to their comforts, and if they have any complaints to make, and I have not in any one instance found occasion to alter the arrangements of the officers in charge of the establishment.

Duties.

Permanent revenue for the Gold Coast is derived from a duty of half per cent. *ad valorem* on all imports, and a Government grant of 4000*l.* a-year.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The income for the year 1847 amounted to 5603*l.*; the disbursements, 4617*l.*; being an increase of 727*l.* over the previous year's receipts.

General Remarks.

The general aspect of the colony is gratifying; the various tribes under the influence of the Government seem to be in a good state of subordination; and the aspect of other contiguous tribes and kingdoms are decided by legitimate effects; and the Christian religion, on which all the principles of good government are founded, is steadily and surely making its way among the people.

H. WINNIETT, Lieut.-Governor.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

NEW SOUTH
WALES.

No. 28.

(No. 120.)

No. 28.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir C. A. FITZROY to Earl GREY.

Government House, Sydney,

May 20, 1848.

MY LORD,

(Received, October 31, 1848.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this colony for the year ended on the 31st December, 1847; and in compliance with the instructions contained in the Secretary of State's Despatch, No. 101, of 5th May, 1842, I proceed to offer such remarks upon the condition of the colony as may be interesting to your Lordship.

Taxes, Duties, &c.—(pp. 1 to 15.)

The total revenue derived from the duties on spirits imported as well as made in the colony was

	£.	s.	d.
In 1846	86,037	9	3
„ 1847	98,424	12	4

pp. 66 and 68.

showing an increase of 12,387*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.*, which is attributed to the increase of population and the high rate of wages.

The *ad valorem* duties produced

	£.	s.	d.
In the year 1846	27,779	15	4
„ 1847	33,553	4	1

The duties on tobacco produced

	£.	s.	d.
In the year 1846	53,400	12	1
„ 1847	54,786	2	7

The wharfage and harbour duties amounted in 1847 to 471*l.* 1*s.*

Post-office—(pp. 42 to 44.)

The revenue produced by the Post-office and the expenditure stand thus:—

	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
In 1846	17,924	13	3	16,165	15	7
„ 1847	19,214	10	10	17,029	9	0

An Act of Council (11 Vic., No. 18) was passed on 17th September, 1847, levying an assessment on stock beyond the settled districts, and came into operation on 1st January, 1848. There was, therefore, no revenue from this source for the year 1847, except 1195*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*, the arrears of previous years.

The fees on licenses to occupy Crown lands and to cut timber, which are part of the Crown revenue, produced

	£.	s.	d.
In 1846	39,724	18	1
„ 1847	43,820	3	7

Fees of Office—(pp. 15 to 36.)

The revenue derived from fees of office was

	£.	s.	d.
In 1846	10,931	18	10
„ 1847	11,976	8	1

The fees taken in all the Courts of Justice, which amounted

	£.	s.	d.
In 1846 to	4,530	0	6
were in 1847	7,917	0	5

*Revenue and Expenditure—(pp. 41 to 105.)*NEW SOUTH
WALES.

The accounts of the colony are made up in accordance with the principles laid down in the Constitutional Act, 5 and 6 Vic., c. 76.

The Ordinary Revenue, that is to say, the revenue derived from taxes, duties, rates, and imposts, was

	£.	s.	d.
In 1846	270,550	9	9
„ 1847	275,343	0	11

therefore the revenue of 1847 exceeded that of the previous year by 4792*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*, in addition to 2054*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.* recovered from sureties of Mr. J. E. Manning, and adjustment of advances to Colonial Agent-general, making in the whole the Ordinary Revenue to amount to 277,397*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*

The expenditure chargeable on the Ordinary Revenue was—

	£.	s.	d.
In 1846	281,164	6	11
And in 1847	302,286	17	7

Therefore the expenditure of 1847 exceeded that of the previous year by £21,122 10 8

And the expenditure of 1847 being 302,286 17 7
And the ordinary revenue being 277,397 5 6

The expenditure exceeded the revenue by £24,889 12 1

Your Lordship will perceive that there is a discrepancy in the amount of the Ordinary Revenue for 1846, as stated in the Blue Book of that year and the Blue Book now forwarded. This is occasioned by certain advances made from the General or Ordinary Revenue having been placed under that head in the comparative statement for 1846–47.

Heretofore it has been the practice to insert these advances with other temporary transactions; but it is now considered preferable to keep all payments from the General Revenue under that head.

The amounts which occasion the apparent difference in 1846 are—

1st. Remittances in advance to the Colonial Agent-General	£.	s.	d.
	14,987	2	10
2nd. Advances towards the erection of the new military barracks	12,000	0	0
	26,987	2	10
Blue Book 1846	254,177	4	1
Blue Book 1847	£281,164	6	11

Under the new arrangement a similar discrepancy will not again occur.

Crown Revenue—(pp. 58 to 60).

The following is a statement of the Crown Revenue for 1847:--

Territorial.

	£.	s.	d.
Land sold	59,112	4	8
Quit-rents	14,739	1	0
Depasturing licences	42,749	13	11
Timber ditto	744	0	0
Rents, leases, &c., within the boundaries	5,477	2	0
	122,822	1	7
Casual Revenue	21	12	7
Special receipts	1,640	14	0
Grand total	£124,484	8	2

Under sanction of your Lordship's Despatch No. 11, of 6th August, 1846, the Casual Revenue or droits of the Crown were carried in 1847 to the credit of the General Revenue; but the sum of 21*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*, above specified, con-

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NEW SOUTH
WALES.

sisted of collections at Port Phillip in 1846, which were not, however, credited in Sydney until 1847.

The charges on the same revenue for 1847 were—

	£.	s.	d.
Survey and management	22,753	5	3
Immigration and quarantine	1,049	7	11
Interest on debentures	5,191	4	4
Aborigines	2,250	4	4
Miscellaneous	3,094	14	6
Revenue returned	2,396	15	2
Debentures paid off	83,900	0	0
	£120,635	11	6

There is therefore a balance on the Crown Revenue, after all the outstanding debentures have been paid off, amounting to 3848*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*

Convict Expenditure—(pp. 115 and 116.)

The expenditure under this head continues to decrease. It was—

	£.	s.	d.
In 1846	27,713	4	9
„ 1847	25,517	17	8

The number of convicts in the colony, according to the Blue Book for 1847 on 31st December of that year, was 6664, being a decrease on the previous year of 4607.

Local Revenues—(pp. 117 to 121.)

The local revenues of the city of Sydney amounted in 1847 to 11,409*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*, those of the town of Melbourne 4,908*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*

The district councils are in the same state of abeyance and inaction as in my last report.

Military Expenditure—(pp. 125 and 126.)

P. 139.

No expense has been incurred by the colony on account of the military defences, and the only military expenditure is that of the mounted police, amounting to 6476*l.* 10*s.* 6½*d.* The amount paid for gratuities to officers and soldiers out of colonial funds for guarding convicts employed on public works for the colony was, in 1847, 730*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*

Legislation—(pp. 151 to 162.)

The reports on the Acts passed by the Legislative Council in 1847 were forwarded in my Despatch, No. 241, of 16th December, 1847.

Councils and Assemblies—(pp. 163 to 168.)

No observation under this head seems necessary.

Civil Establishment—(pp. 169 to 382.)

This head appears to require no report.

Security for discharging Duties—(pp. 385 to 394.)

This head appears to require no report.

Pensions—(pp. 395 to 399.)

The pension list shows a decrease in 1847. The pensions payable in the colony were—

	£.	s.	d.
In 1846	664	2	6
„ 1847	576	15	0

Recapitulation of the Establishment—(pp. 400 to 404.)

No observation seems necessary.

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NEW SOUTH
WALES.*Foreign Consuls—(pp. 405 and 406.)*

There are only two Consuls in the colony, French and American.

Population—(pp. 407 to 468.)

The last census was taken on the 2d March, 1846; and the general summary which was appended to the Blue Book of 1846 is again included in the Blue Book of 1847, and will be found at page 411. The population was shown at that date to be 189,609 souls, exclusive of Port Essington.

Ecclesiastical Returns—(pp. 469 to 494.)

The number of clergymen receiving salaries from the Government in the year 1847 was 134, being 7 less than in the previous year.

The amount secured for public worship under Schedule C of the Act, 5 and 6 Vict., c. 76, is distributed under the arrangement sanctioned by the Secretary of State's Despatch No. 19, of 17th February 1846.

Education—(pp. 495 to 508.)

In the session of 1847 a sum of 2000*l.* was placed on the estimates and voted by the Council for the introduction of the Irish National System of Education into the colony.

For the purpose of carrying out this system a Board has been appointed, which is presided over by the Attorney-General. This Board have proposed to establish a normal school in Sydney with a view to providing teachers for the country districts, and have sent home for a schoolmaster and mistress, and for books of instruction. Further than this no steps have as yet been taken; but it is expected that the system will come into operation early in the ensuing year; and I am convinced it is the only one which can be carried out with beneficial effect among the scattered population of the country districts; and a further sum of 2000*l.* has been placed on the estimates for 1848. The number of other schools is stated, at page 507, to be 436, being 42 more than there were in 1846; the number of scholars in 1847 was 21,621.

Exchanges, Monies, &c.—(pp. 509 to 516.)

The coin in the colony was—

	£.	s.	d.
In 1846	847,316	0	0
„ 1847	654,186	0	11

The paper money in circulation was—

In 1846	£210,219
„ 1847	240,670

The exchange varied from par to 3 per cent. premium.

Imports and Exports—(pp. 529 to 538.)

The imports (Port Phillip included) were—

In 1846	£1,630,522
„ 1847	1,982,023

The exports (Port Phillip included) were—

In 1846	£1,487,258
„ 1847	1,870,046

The export of wool from the whole colony was—

	lbs.	Value.
In 1846	16,479,520	£1,019,985
„ 1847	22,379,722	1,272,118

The value of tallow exported was—

In 1846	£28,107
„ 1847	108,186

NEW SOUTH
WALES.

The increase in the quantity of tallow exported during the past year, out the remarks under this head in my last Report.

Agriculture—(p. 539).

The returns of produce and live stock will be found at p. 540; but it is doubtful whether the agricultural tables can be depended upon for accuracy.

Manufactures, Mines, and Fisheries—(pp. 543 to 546).

The manufacture of tweed cloth is progressively improving. Indications of copper of a valuable description have been discovered in various parts of the colony. The Molong mine continues to be worked with a fair prospect of success; but the want of miners has hitherto prevented other mines from being opened and worked.

Grants of Land—(pp. 547 to 553).

No observation seems necessary. An improvement is shown in the amount received for the sale of lands:—

	£.	s.	d.
In 1846 it was	28,255	0	0
In 1847	62,081	7	10

Gaols and Prisoners—(pp. 555 to 594).

The following returns of the comparative state of crime in the colony may be interesting:—

Convictions in the Supreme Court.

	1846	1847
Murder	7	10
Other felonies	173	166
Misdemeanors	44	33

Convictions in Courts of Quarter Sessions.

	1846	1847
Felonies	350	281
Misdemeanors	77	61
Criminals executed	1	6
Civil cases tried in Supreme Court	197	181
Of which the number of undefended cases	26	29

Miscellaneous—(pp. 595 to 625).

A variety of returns is given at the end of the Blue Book, as printed for the Legislative Council. A table of the contents will be found at p. 598; and they disclose a great body of useful statistical information.

In conclusion, I would beg to observe, that although much property has changed hands during the course of the year,—and I regret to have to report that many of the oldest and most respectable inhabitants have suffered severely from pecuniary losses and the depreciated value of landed property within the settled districts,—I see no reason to report less favourably of the general prosperity of the colony than I did in my Report on the Blue Book for 1846; and it is to be expected, that with the renewal of immigration and the decrease of the price of labour, that prosperity will not be diminished.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) CHARLES A. FITZROY.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c.

STATISTICS OF NEW SOUTH WALES, 1838—1847.

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No. 1.

COIN.

RETURN of Coin in the Colonial Treasury, the Military Chest, and the several Banks, on the 31st December, in each Year, from 1838 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	Colonial Treasury.	Military Chest.	Banks.	Totals.	Increase on previous Year.	Decrease on previous Year.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1838	163,000 0 0	. . .	357,127 11 5	520,127 11 5	92,694 19 11	
1839	124,100 0 0	. . .	391,969 16 7	516,069 16 7	. . .	4,057 14 10
1840	33,900 0 0	49,151 18 9	309,529 15 0	397,581 13 9	. . .	118,483 2 10
1841	25,000 0 0	10,000 0 0	427,624 17 9	462,624 17 9	65,043 4 0	
1842	. . .	32,409 14 5	442,980 4 3	475,389 18 8	12,765 0 11	
1843	. . .	3,000 0 0	420,972 0 5	423,972 0 5	. . .	51,417 18 3
1844	. . .	11,000 0 0	548,923 0 1	559,923 0 1	135,950 19 8	
1845	20,000 0 0	54,315 17 4	780,850 5 10	855,166 3 2	295,243 3 1	
1846	25,000 0 0	121,173 19 6	681,132 19 10	827,306 19 4	. . .	27,859 3 10
1847	30,600 0 0	30,056 19 7	573,529 1 4	634,186 0 11	. . .	193,120 18 5

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 2.

POPULATION—1847.

RETURN of the Increase and Decrease of the Population of New South Wales (including the District of Port Phillip), from 1st January to 31st December, 1847; and of the Total Number on the latter date.

	Male.	Female.	Total.	General Total
Increase by Immigration . . .	5,377	1,186	6,563	
Births	4,548	4,362	8,910	
Total Increase . . . . .	. . . 9,925	. . . 5,548	. . .	15,473
Decrease by Deaths	1,650	1,044	2,694	
Departure	3,312	1,162	4,474	
Total Decrease . . . . .	. . . 4,962	. . . 2,206	. . .	7,168
Net Increase . . . . .	. . . 4,963	. . . 3,342	. . .	8,305
Population on 31st Dec. 1846 . . .	. . . 118,927	. . . 77,777	. . .	196,704
Population on 31st Dec. 1847 . . .	. . . 123,890	. . . 81,119	. . .	205,009

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

NEW SOUTH
WALES.

No. 3.

AGRICULTURE—POPULATION.

RETURN showing the quantity of Land in Cultivation (exclusive of Gardens and Orchards), and the Population of the Colony of New South Wales (including the District of Port Phillip), from the Year 1838 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	AGRICULTURE.									
	CROPS.									
	Wheat.	Maize.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Millet.	Potatoes.	Tobacco	Sown Grasses, Oats, and Barley for Hay.	Total Number of Acres in Crop.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	
1838	48,060	25,043	2,922	3,767	429	39	1,798	925	9,939	92,912
1839	48,401	22,026	3,490	6,793	483	46	1,115	424	12,534	95,312
1840	74,133	24,966	5,144	5,453	609	115	2,594	381	12,721	126,116
1841	58,605	25,004	5,423	5,892	495	47	4,027	380	15,257	115,130
1842	65,188	27,324	5,320	4,467	486	99	5,174	224	18,592	126,874
1843	78,083	29,061	5,727	4,537	514	42	5,872	655	21,162	145,653
1844	81,903	20,798	7,236	4,336	359	43	6,783	871	21,766	144,095
1845	87,894	25,372	10,455	6,109	330	36	5,101	483	27,551	163,331
1846	88,910	31,773	9,215	9,390	177	82	5,537	228	37,221	182,533
1847	81,044	27,240	7,178	10,201	310	83	5,550	67	33,111	164,784

Year.	AGRICULTURE—continued.									
	PRODUCE.									
	Wheat.	Maize.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Millet.	Potatoes.	Tobacco.	Hay.	
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Cwt.	Tons.	
1838	469,140	556,268	32,103	13,416	4,878	353	3,496	4,952	6,960	
1839	805,140	525,507	66,033	27,788	7,008	283	2,601	2,509	25,923	
1840	1,116,814	777,947	105,359	66,020	8,863	3,338	11,050	4,300	21,329	
1841	832,776	503,803	90,172	62,704	6,507	1,072	11,141	2,642	17,175	
1842	851,432	590,134	88,767	81,321	4,451	1,201	12,561	2,014	18,622	
1843	1,000,225	719,358	95,658	92,268	5,145	410	16,392	6,098	27,774	
1844	1,312,652	575,913	132,612	70,620	4,475	511	22,748	6,382	31,848	
1845	1,211,099	499,122	175,407	88,193	4,101	775	19,906	3,985	28,614	
1846	1,421,750	870,400	193,835	216,783	2,250	1,929	18,329	2,087	42,754	
1847	1,027,802	725,704	87,636	221,731	1,120	793	14,240	725	33,111	

Year.	POPULATION.			
	Adults.		Children.	Total.
	Male.	Female.		
1838	57,485	18,000	22,427	97,912
1839	63,784	21,998	28,604	114,386
1840	70,021	25,476	33,966	129,463
1841	75,474	33,546	40,649	149,669
1842	76,528	35,762	47,599	159,889
1843	76,147	35,474	53,920	165,541
1844	74,912	36,170	62,295	173,377
1845	74,951	36,223	70,382	181,556
1846	82,847	42,287	71,570	196,704
1847	83,572	41,809	79,628	205,009

NOTE.—From 1838 to 1841, the crops and produce of land beyond the boundaries of location are not included.

Colonial Secretary's Office.
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 4.

VINEYARDS.

NEW SOUTH
WALES.

RETURN of the Number of Acres of Land planted with the Grape Vine, and of the Quantity of Wine and Brandy made from the Produce thereof, in the Year 1848.

Counties.	Acres.	Wine.	Brandy.
<i>Sydney or Middle District.</i>		Gallons.	Gallons.
Argyle	36	..	..
Bathurst	$\frac{1}{2}$	100	..
Bligh	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	40	..
Brisbane	66	1,001	..
Camden	73	11,000	383
Cook	34	150	20
Cumberland	255 $\frac{1}{2}$	11,089	504
Durham	176	8,157	115
Georgiana . . . . .	..	..	..
Gloucester	90	7,060	100
Hunter	18	389	..
King	8	300	20
Macquarie	16	6,000	200
Murray	6	..	..
Northumberland	85	5,249	60
Phillip	1	100	..
Roxburgh	23	3,320	..
St. Vincent . . . . .	..	..	..
Stanley	3	..	..
Wellington	$\frac{1}{2}$	..	..
Westmoreland	$\frac{1}{2}$	10	..
	894	53,965	1,402
Beyond the boundaries of location	5	70	..
<i>Port Phillip or Southern District.</i>			
Bourke	52	..	..
Grant	48	1,300	30
Normanby	1	..	..
	101	1,300	30
Totals	1,000	55,335	1,432

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 5.

LIVE STOCK.

RETURN of Live Stock in the Colony of New South Wales on the 1st January, 1848.

Counties or Districts.	Description of Stock.			
	Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Pigs.	Sheep.
<i>Sydney or Middle District, within the Boundaries of Location.</i>	Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.
Argyle	3,702	22,187	1,429	284,794
Bathurst	3,042	23,252	748	230,479
Bligh	987	10,765	119	143,941
Brisbane	1,865	9,631	505	111,452
Camden	5,448	35,005	6,456	34,680
Cook	2,224	8,596	3,408	13,974
Cumberland	13,241	24,091	11,532	9,728
Durham	4,805	35,053	7,068	90,474
Georgiana	2,760	25,713	967	186,290
Gloucester	2,676	28,250	2,225	44,278
Hunter	1,443	6,437	1,322	5,741
King	1,133	19,948	836	104,546
Macquarie	1,349	22,618	1,417	39,472
Murray	3,286	23,408	1,295	264,503
Northumberland	6,038	28,306	7,088	18,347
Phillip	1,103	4,190	233	78,522
Roxburgh	2,300	17,600	600	180,000
St. Vincent	2,048	25,488	2,414	55,352
Stanley	173	1,664	294	4
Wellington	1,050	8,012	420	97,496
Westmoreland	1,722	11,048	844	46,166
	62,395	391,262	51,220	2,040,239

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NEW SOUTH
WALES.

Return of Live Stock in the Colony of New South Wales—continued.

Counties or Districts.	Description of Stock.			
	Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Pigs.	Sheep.
	Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.
<i>Commissioners' Districts, beyond the Boundaries of Location.</i>				
Bligh	1,265	45,664	..	187,109
Clarence River	1,022	31,717	1,749	157,227
Darling Downs	1,072	29,358	65	454,184
Gwyder	1,946	112,714	..	106,317
Lachlan	4,024	119,369	871	308,818
Liverpool Plains	3,534	126,050	500	338,374
Lower Darling* . . . . .	..	..	..	..
McLeay River	787	17,879	540	879
Menaroo	4,946	109,242	520	362,441
Moreton Bay	944	17,245	No Return.	244,750
Murrumbidgee	3,687	120,681	1,200	571,315
New England	2,645	70,908	500	632,957
Wellington	1,495	60,564	200	250,672
	27,367	861,391	6,145	3,615,043
Total in the Sydney or Middle District	89,762	1,252,653	57,365	5,655,282
<i>Port Phillip or Southern District, within the Boundaries of Location.</i>				
Bourke	1,750	27,317	2,347	130,090
Grant	610	8,202	450	242,900
Normanby	507	11,846	268	139,651
	2,867	47,365	3,065	512,641
<i>Commissioners' Districts, beyond the Boundaries of Location.</i>				
Gipps Land	1,163	41,214	266	171,114
Murray	2,960	90,057	400	472,507
Portland Bay	3,934	106,542	..	1,696,217
Western Port	2,733	44,813	1,300	954,792
Wimmera	496	14,270	250	591,088
	11,286	296,896	2,216	3,885,718
Total in the Port Phillip or Southern District	14,153	344,261	5,281	4,398,359
General Total	103,915	1,596,914	62,646	10,053,641

* No Return rendered.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 6.

TALLOW AND LARD.

RETURN of Live Stock Slaughtered, and the Quantity of Tallow and Lard produced from the same, in the Year 1847.

District.	Number of Boiling-down Establishments.	Sheep Slaughtered.	Horned Cattle Slaughtered.	Tallow Produced.	Hogs Slaughtered.	Lard Produced.
		Number.	Number.	Cwt.	Number.	lbs.
Sydney or Middle District— Within the Boundaries of Location	39	84,921	26,760	45,400	54	1,680
Beyond the Boundaries of Location	10	43,820	5,252	13,563	..	..
Port Phillip or Southern District	4	52,437	2,647	13,205	6	488
Totals	53	181,178	34,659	72,168	60	2,168

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 7.

IMPORTS.

RETURN of the Value of Imports into the Colony of New South Wales, (including the District of Port Phillip,) from the Year 1838 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.		From South Sea Islands.	From Fisheries.	From United States.	From Foreign States.	Total.
		New Zealand.	Elsewhere.					
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
1838	1,102,127	53,943	255,975	5,548	71,506	8,066	82,112	1,579,277
1839	1,251,969	71,709	504,828	3,863	186,212	23,093	194,697	2,236,371
1840	2,200,305	54,192	376,954	1,348	104,895	24,164	252,331	3,014,189
1841	1,837,369	45,659	286,637	24,361	97,809	35,282	200,871	2,527,988
1842	854,774	37,246	260,955	10,020	64,999	20,117	206,948	1,455,059
1843	1,034,942	15,738	211,291	22,387	42,579	12,041	211,566	1,550,544
1844	643,419	20,795	133,128	10,624	32,507	17,187	73,600	931,260
1845	777,112	34,470	203,289	40,048	43,503	7,416	128,016	1,233,854
1846	1,119,301	23,367	239,576	21,799	56,461	4,459	165,559	1,630,522
1847	1,347,241	27,159	361,565	6,919	41,557	1,550	196,032	1,982,023

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 8.

EXPORTS.

RETURN of the Value of Exports from the Colony of New South Wales, (including the District of Port Phillip,) from the Year 1838 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.		To South Sea Islands.	To Fisheries.	To United States.	To Foreign States.	Total.
		New Zealand.	Elsewhere.					
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
1838	583,154	46,924	113,716	7,137	33,988	11,324	6,525	802,768
1839	597,100	95,173	194,684	1,347	34,729	18,568	7,175	948,776
1840	792,494	215,486	304,724	6,621	27,864	27,885	24,618	1,399,692
1841	706,336	114,980	123,968	13,144	18,417	4,837	41,715	1,023,397
1842	685,703	131,784	166,239	3,005	22,862	17,101	40,715	1,067,411
1843	825,885	79,764	205,992	17,934	18,827	.	23,918	1,172,320
1844	854,903	70,799	165,553	14,106	11,623	.	11,131	1,128,115
1845	1,254,881	77,017	199,771	17,656	1,593	.	5,068	1,555,986
1846	1,130,179	106,277	222,645	13,441	590	.	8,407	1,481,539
1847	1,503,091	122,205	212,982	14,231	.	.	17,587	1,870,046

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 9.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

RETURN of the Value of the Imports into, and Exports from, the Colony of New South Wales, (including the District of Port Phillip,) from the Year 1844 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	IMPORTS.				EXPORTS.				
	Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of the United Kingdom.	Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of other British Dominions.	Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of Foreign States.	Total Value.	Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of New South Wales.	Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of the United Kingdom.	Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of other British Dominions.	Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of Foreign States.	Total Value.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
1844	629,510	154,572	147,178	931,260	864,709	119,197	64,266	79,943	1,128,115
1845	786,514	156,491	29,849	1,233,854	1,269,062	100,901	110,160	75,863	1,555,986
1846	1,111,238	88,638	430,646	1,630,522	1,201,433	120,424	80,499	79,183	1,481,539
1847	1,269,183	95,118	617,722	1,982,023	1,649,031	136,385	15,865	68,765	1,870,046

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

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NEW SOUTH
WALES.

No. 10.

IMPORT OF GRAIN.

RETURN of the Quantity and Value of Grain, &c., Imported into the Colony of New South Wales (including the District of Port Phillip), from the Year 1838 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	Wheat.	Maize.	Barley, Oats, and Peas.	Flour and Bread.	Rice.	Potatoes.	Total Value, as entered in the Returns of Imports.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Tons.	£.
1838	79,328	6,040	58,927	2,478,712	728,346	1,167	64,313
1839	171,207	30,862	64,093	3,579,076	1,414,747	1,189	285,110
1840	290,843	19,185	63,363	7,108,663	6,849,896	1,723	217,063
1841	239,224	12,773	41,610	14,929,503	3,603,076	480	201,632
1842	163,224	1,120	37,798	7,247,016	2,260,046	1,401	113,070
1843	395,374	583	61,361	6,941,760	1,678,208	547	112,387
1844	265,704	17	35,194	{ 4,370,240 & 250 casks of biscuit. }	260,288	1,085	65,442
1845	109,355	..	46,399	3,327,632	450,040	430	39,855
1846	237,717	536	46,454	5,367,936	1,283,968	2,663	63,764
1847	224,720	..	37,469	5,335,680	1,044,288	1,227	52,740

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 11.

EXPORT OF GRAIN.

RETURN of the Quantity and Value of Grain, &c., Exported from the Colony of New South Wales (including the District of Port Phillip), from the Year 1843 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	Wheat.	Maize.	Barley, Oats, and Peas.	Flour and Bread.	Potatoes.	Total Value, as entered in the Returns of Exports.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Pounds.	Tons.	£.
1843	273	4,687	1,870	3,146,192	47	13,486
1844	825	26,184	1,798	2,028,344	60	12,232
1845	1,362	5,334	292	2,837,632	50	13,931
1846	6,252	1,867	545	3,491,744	3	12,258
1847	8,820	62,262	4,216	1,786,400	84	16,944

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 12.

IMPORT OF BUTTER AND CHEESE.

RETURN of the Quantity and Value of Butter and Cheese Imported into the Colony of New South Wales (including the District of Port Phillip), from the Year 1843 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	Quantity.	Total Value, as entered in the Returns of Imports.
	lbs.	£.
1843	248,170	9,497
1844	60,704	1,184
1845	22,216	579
1846	45,456	1,062
1847	10,164	413

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 13.

NEW SOUTH
WALES.

EXPORT OF BUTTER AND CHEESE.

RETURN of the Quantity and Value of Butter and Cheese Exported from the Colony of New South Wales (including the District of Port Phillip), from the Year 1843 to 1847, inclusive.

	Year.	Quantity.	Total Value, as entered in the Returns of Exports.
		lbs.	£.
	1843	81,173	3,488
	1844	188,174	3,717
	1845	172,368	4,313
	1846	100,287	3,665
	1847	253,880	5,977

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 14.

IMPORT OF LIVE STOCK.

RETURN of Live Stock Imported into the Colony of New South Wales (including the District of Port Phillip), from the Year 1838 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	DESCRIPTION OF STOCK.			
	Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Sheep and Hogs.
	Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.
1838	185	74	9,822	192
1839	652	135	17,567	359
1840	1,008	244	19,958	252
1841	875	156	530	50 Hogs.
1842	113	89	638	65 „
1843	31	28	609	4 „
1844	52	21	307	..
1845	693	48	811	2
1846	655	29	1,228	..
1847	591	22	2,285	..

N.B. The sheep have principally been imported from Van Diemen's Land to the district of Port Phillip. The horses have chiefly come from South America.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 15.

EXPORT OF LIVE STOCK.

RETURN of Live Stock Exported from the Colony of New South Wales (including the District of Port Phillip), from the Year 1843 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	DESCRIPTION OF STOCK.						Total Value, as Entered in the Returns of Exports.
	Horses.	Asses and Mules.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Hogs.	Goats.	
	Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.	£
1843	248	2	1,852	77,116	..	..	41,915
1844	489	3	3,329	53,318	..	..	40,394
1845	1,159	..	3,972	33,651	6	..	53,438
1846	1,021	..	6,052	37,848	4	..	52,942
1847	466	..	8,034	71,440	1	10	57,355

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

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NEW SOUTH
WALES.

No. 16.

IMPORT OF SALT MEAT.

RETURN of the Value of Salt Meat Imported into the Colony of New South Wales (including the District of Port Phillip), from the Year 1843 to 1847, inclusive.

	Year.	Value, as Entered in the Returns of Imports.
		£.
	1843	19,286
	1844	3,355
	1845	5,200
	1846	7,197
	1847	3,917

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 17.

EXPORT OF SALT MEAT.

RETURN of the Quantity and Value of Salt Meat Exported from the Colony of New South Wales (including the District of Port Phillip), from the Year 1843 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	Beef, Pork, and Mutton.	Mutton, Bacon, and Hams.	Tongues	Total Value, as Entered in the Returns of Exports.
	Quantity.	Quantity.	Quantity.	£.
1843	{ 2,867 casks and 856½ tons. }	..	224 lbs.	13,924
1844	{ 4,292 casks and 294½ tons. }	20,615	{ 110 cwt. and 150 in No. }	18,730
1845	{ 1,142 casks 425½ tons 345 pack- ages, and 4,400 lbs. of preserved meats. }	{ 94 cwt. } { 11,422 in No. }	{ 63 casks } { 2,450 in No. }	12,163
1846	{ 721 casks 1,126 tons 12 pack- ages of preserved meats. }	{ 39 cwt. } { 300 in No. }	{ 12 casks } { 300 in No. }	15,664
1847	{ 4,335 casks 866 tons 15 cwt. 224 pack- ages of preserved meats. }	{ 224 cwt. } { 32 in No. }	127 casks.	24,278

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 18.

IMPORT OF HIDES AND LEATHER.

RETURN of the Value of Hides and of Manufactured and Unmanufactured Leather Imported into the Colony of New South Wales (including the District of Port Phillip), from the Year 1843 to 1847, inclusive.

	Year.	Value, as entered in the Returns of Imports.
		£.
	1843	36,185
	1844	19,844
	1845	14,124
	1846	15,230
	1847	21,283

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 19.

EXPORT OF HIDES AND LEATHER.

NEW SOUTH
WALES.

RETURN of the Value of Hides and of Manufactured and Unmanufactured Leather Exported from the Colony of New South Wales (including the District of Port Phillip), from the Year 1843 to 1847, inclusive.

	Year.	Value, as entered in the Returns of Exports.
		£
	1843	10,305
	1844	22,285
	1845	40,866
	1846	28,999
	1847	39,001

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 20.

EXPORT OF WOOL.

RETURN of the Quantity and Value of Wool Exported from the Colony of New South Wales (including the District of Port Phillip), from the Year 1838 to 1847, inclusive.

	Year.	Quantity.	Value, as entered in the Returns of Exports.
		lbs.	£.
	1838	5,749,376	405,977
	1839	7,213,584	442,504
	1840	8,610,775	566,112
	1841	8,390,540	517,537
	1842	9,428,036	595,175
	1843	12,704,899	685,647
	1844	13,542,173	645,344
	1845	17,364,734	1,009,242
	1846	16,479,520	1,019,985
	1847	22,379,722	1,272,118

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 21.

EXPORT OF TALLOW.

RETURN of the Quantity and Value of Tallow Exported from the Colony of New South Wales (including the District of Port Phillip), from the Year 1843 to 1847, inclusive.

	Years.	Quantity.	Value, as entered in the Returns of Exports.
		Cwts. qrs. lbs.	£.
	1843	5,680 2 36	9,639
	1844	56,609 2 7	83,511
	1845	71,995 0 0	102,746
	1846	20,357 1 7	28,107
	1847	99,847 0 0	108,186

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 22.

EXPORT OF BARK.

RETURN of the Quantity and Value of Bark and Extract of Bark Exported from the Colony of New South Wales (including the District of Port Phillip), from the Year 1843 to 1847, inclusive.

	Years.	Quantity.	Value, as entered in the Returns of Exports.
			£.
	1843	1,199 tons, and 6 casks .	5,179
	1844	2,926½ tons, and 20 casks .	9,114
	1845	591½ tons	2,256
	1846	595 tons	1,585
	1847	19½ tons	75

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

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NEW SOUTH
WALES.

No. 23.

IMPORT OF TIMBER.

RETURN of the Quantity and Value of Timber Imported into the Colony of New South Wales,
(including the District of Port Phillip,) from the Year 1843 to 1847.

Year.	Deals.	OTHER TIMBER.					Sandal Wood.	Total Value, as entered in the Returns of Imports.
		Sawn, &c.	Wrought.	Shingles.	Laths.	Paling.		
	Quantity.	Quantity.	Quantity.	Quantity.	No.	No.	Tons.	£.
1843	12,327	{ 212,890 ft. 509 loads,	82 pack.	3,000	115,000	172,000	107	10,156
1844	2,951	{ 101,228 ft. and 108 loads.	54 do.	{ 414,000 and 3 loads.	..	500,000	90	4,195
1845	{ 10,457 and 256 loads.	{ 604,524 ft. 541 loads.	5 prs. sashes.	2,118,685	254,500	128,630	415	10,541
1846	31,256	1,255,569 ft.	..	{ 1,485,000 and 15½ loads.	461,750	392,570	44	10,278
1847	22,418	2,483,431	..	2,633,600	1,424,800	675,742	351	14,951

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 24.

EXPORT OF TIMBER.

RETURN of the Quantity and Value of Timber Exported from the Colony of New South
Wales, (including the District of Port Phillip,) from the Year 1838 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	Cedar.	Blue Gum, Pine, and other Timber,	Treenails.	Total Value, as entered in the Returns of Exports.
	Quantity.	Quantity.	Number.	£.
1838	699,066	9,000 Superficial feet.	73,450	6,382
1839	729,001	{ 823 Deals 15 Logs.	40,588	8,815
1840	1,250,786	151,500	4,350	20,971
1841	513,139	1,000 Superficial	26,890	7,004
1842	522,982	27,404 feet.	55,644	5,800
1843	944,121	{ 10,020 30 Logs.	155,294	9,813
1844	{ 1,222,533 214 Pieces, and 24 Logs.	{ 99,500 Superficial feet, and 33 Logs.*	105,428	8,825
1845	781,415	{ 73,300 feet, 241 Logs, &c.	105,908	8,074
1846	956,515	39,006 feet.	113,972	7,851
1847	953,995	46,850 feet.	165,648	7,333

* 1844.—Also, a large quantity of timber, the measurement of which was not stated when entered at the Custom House.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 25.

EXPORT OF OIL.

RETURN of the Quantity and Value of Oil, &c., Exported from the Colony of New South
Wales, (including the District of Port Phillip,) from the Year 1838 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	Sperm Whale.	Black Whale.	Whalebone.		Seal Skins.	Total Value, as entered in the Returns of Exports.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Cwt.	Quantity.	£.
1838	1,891	3,055	174	..	3 Cases.	197,644
1839	1,578	1,229	134	14	7 Cases.	172,315
1840	1,854	4,297	250	..	474 in No.	224,144
1841	1,545	1,018	84	13	41 ,,	127,470
1842	957	1,171	60	5	162 ,,	77,012
1843	1,115	190	22	8	155 ,,	72,989
1844	810	526	15	18	3 Bales.	57,493
1845	1,352	571	21	13	{ 2 Casks and 10 Skins.	96,804
1846	1,061	344	17	9	..	70,126
1847	1,214	331	8	3½	..	80,528

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No 26.

SHIPPING INWARDS.

RETURN of the Number and Tonnage of Vessels entered Inwards in the Colony of New South Wales, (including the District of Port Phillip,) from the Year 1838 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	From Great Britain.		From British Colonies.				From South Sea Islands.		From Fisheries.		From United States.		From Foreign States.		Total.	
			New Zealand.		Elsewhere.											
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1838	102	41,848	38	4,291	241	34,469	6	616	31	7,928	1	274	9	2,351	428	91,777
1839	137	58,123	51	8,368	290	45,928	7	836	36	9,321	4	1,177	38	11,721	563	135,474
1840	190	80,806	68	13,123	347	53,625	6	750	27	8,087	8	2,520	63	20,047	709	178,958
1841	251	106,332	48	7,601	322	43,922	3	353	23	6,163	13	4,754	54	14,648	714	183,778
1842	137	55,144	81	14,085	282	42,365	19	2,902	20	5,806	7	2,762	82	20,857	628	143,921
1843	87	35,914	43	6,229	325	43,934	25	4,194	30	7,967	5	1,116	43	11,510	558	110,864
1844	78	34,765	54	7,189	226	31,195	13	1,831	27	7,888	3	1,005	16	3,666	417	87,539
1845	80	29,954	62	6,237	364	47,532	24	2,612	37	11,900	1	243	29	6,874	597	105,352
1846	84	36,761	65	10,865	475	57,485	27	3,005	79	24,375	1	370	36	8,606	767	141,467
1847	88	37,941	75	10,516	565	69,614	25	2,443	78	22,558	1	160	46	11,672	878	154,904

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 27.

SHIPPING OUTWARDS.

RETURN of the Number and Tonnage of Vessels entered Outwards in the Colony of New South Wales, (including the District of Port Phillip,) from the Year 1838 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	To Great Britain.		To British Colonies.				To South Sea Islands.		To Fisheries.		To United States.		To Foreign States.		Totals.	
			New Zealand.		Elsewhere.											
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1838	35	12,367	39	5,358	216	28,494	5	362	40	10,385	1	289	73	35,749	409	93,004
1839	39	13,886	81	13,581	303	52,749	7	1,216	28	7,718	2	621	88	35,005	548	124,776
1840	54	18,774	83	17,111	350	66,131	6	737	22	6,199	4	950	146	53,802	665	163,704
1841	54	16,418	80	14,607	340	68,449	10	2,002	19	5,053	1	341	186	65,248	690	172,118
1842	54	16,323	78	13,080	328	56,891	15	2,749	25	7,318	2	705	131	37,904	633	134,970
1843	70	22,154	54	10,018	322	43,874	42	9,783	21	5,793	..	..	55	18,404	564	110,026
1844	67	24,163	58	8,590	337	52,551	21	2,796	24	6,724	..	..	42	14,418	569	109,242
1845	67	25,221	67	8,781	392	48,392	25	2,993	40	11,763	..	..	23	6,811	614	103,961
1846	57	22,545	77	16,033	482	59,522	28	3,359	73	21,873	..	..	37	11,666	754	134,998
1847	75	30,991	102	19,371	591	74,253	29	3,383	80	23,702	..	..	56	16,964	933	168,664

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 28.

VESSELS REGISTERED.

RETURN of the Number of Vessels Built and Registered in the Colony of New South Wales (including the District of Port Phillip), from the Year 1838 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	Vessels Built.		Vessels Registered.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1838	20	808	41	6,229
1839	12	773	79	10,862
1840	18	1,207	98	12,426
1841	35	2,074	110	11,250
1842	26	1,357	89	9,948
1843	47	1,433	92	7,022
1844	18	519	87	8,087
1845	18	1,042	98	9,376
1846	28	1,032	83	4,895
1847	36	2,284	104	9,428

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

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REPORTS EXHIBITING THE PAST AND PRESENT

NEW SOUTH
WALES.

No. 29.

LAND SALES.

RETURN of the Amounts received from the Sale of Crown Lands in the Colony of New South Wales (including the District of Port Phillip) from the Year 1838 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	Amount.		
	£.	s.	d.
1838	116,324	18	11
1839*	152,962	16	4
1840	316	626	7 5
1841†	90,387	16	10
1842‡	14,574	10	4
1843§	11,297	3	9
1844	7,402	18	6
1845	18,451	5	6
1846	27,060	15	7
1847	62,801	4	1

* 1839.—In this year the minimum price was raised from 5s. to 12s. an acre, but did not extend to lands previously advertised at the former rate, of which there was a very large quantity at the time.

† 1841.—In this year the system of sale at a fixed price of 1*l.* per acre was introduced into the district of Port Phillip.

‡ 1842.—In this year the system of sale by auction was resumed throughout the colony, at a minimum upset price of 12s. per acre for country lands, with liberty to select portions not bid for at the upset price.

§ 1843.—In this year the minimum price was raised to 1*l.* per acre by the Act of the Imperial Parliament, 5th and 6th Vic., cap. 36, with liberty to select, at the upset price, country portions put up to auction and not bid for, or on which the deposit had been forfeited.

NOTE.—In the year 1831, Lord Ripon's regulations for the abolition of free grants, and the sale by auction of all Crown lands, were first promulgated in the colony.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 30.

AUCTION DUTY.

RETURN of the Amount of Auction Duty, at 1½ per cent., paid into the Colonial Treasury, and of the Amount of Sales, subject to the said Duty, from the Year 1838 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	Amount of Duty.			Amount of Sales.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1838	6,137	10	1	409,166	18	10
1839	7,700	16	5	513,388	1	1
1840	18,701	2	10	1,246,742	15	6
1841	14,455	9	1	963,696	18	10
1842	10,291	6	8	686,088	17	9
1843	6,818	9	6	454,565	0	0
1844	4,662	9	5	310,831	8	0
1845	6,068	2	10	404,542	16	0
1846	6,217	7	3	414,490	16	8
1847	7,061	14	4	470,781	1	10

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 31.

MORTGAGES ON LAND—SYDNEY.

RETURN of the Number and Amount of Mortgages on Land in the Colony of New South Wales, registered at Sydney, from the Year 1838 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	Lent on Town Lands.		Lent on Country Lands.		Lent on Town and Country Lands.		Totals.	
	Number of Mortgages.	Amount.	Number of Mortgages.	Amount.	Number of Mortgages.	Amount.	Number of Mortgages.	Amount.
		£. s. d.		£. s. d.		£. s. d.		£. s. d.
1838	139	59,702 6 4	207	174,388 4 0	10	14,801 6 0	356	248,891 16 4
1839	159	112,835 19 0	213	189,447 10 8	11	46,534 15 2	383	348,818 4 10
1840	155	112,158 19 11	281	355,224 0 5	23	47,358 0 0	459	514,741 0 4
1841	241	266,944 13 0	417	643,111 18 7	51	188,685 3 0	709	1,098,741 14 7
1842	238	282,659 7 0	333	384,566 6 0	54	157,186 17 0	625	824,412 10 0
1843	246	275,386 3 0	285	333,487 14 6	51	446,707 2 0	582	1,055,580 19 6
1844	192	94,400 11 0	252	144,352 7 0	50	61,065 4 0	494	299,818 2 0
1845	135	111,659 2 0	152	107,585 13 5	31	53,577 15 0	318	272,822 10 5
1846	146	64,856 10 2	148	86,726 1 2	14	18,792 0 0	308	170,374 11 4
1847	156	81,516 18 4	149	82,605 12 2	15	16,432 0 0	320	180,554 10 6

WILLIAM CARTER,
Registrar-General.

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NEW SOUTH
WALES.

No. 32.

MORTGAGES ON LAND—PORT PHILLIP.

RETURN of the Number and Amount of Mortgages on Land in the Colony of New South Wales, registered at Port Phillip, from the Year 1838 to 1847, inclusive,

Year.	Lent on Town Lands.			Lent on Country Lands.			Lent on Town and Country Lands.			Totals.		
	Number of Mortgages.	Amount.			Number of Mortgages.	Amount.			Number of Mortgages.	Amount.		
		£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
1838	16	17,260	10	0	..	..	..	..	16	17,260	10	0
1839	89	44,868	14	7	21	32,595	2	9	110	77,463	17	4
1840	60	73,176	17	0	19	53,768	0	0	82	134,445	7	0
1841	51	42,858	0	0	40	39,765	10	0	99	108,474	5	0
1842	95	56,090	15	0	57	40,301	0	0	162	113,261	15	0
1843	69	27,238	0	0	47	48,322	10	0	134	270,413	10	0
1844	45	17,831	10	0	20	29,317	0	0	68	48,658	15	0
1845	37	12,262	0	0	25	24,461	0	0	63	46,723	0	0
1846	45	14,702	12	6	25	21,034	0	0	70	35,736	12	6
1847	67	19,544	6	9	30	23,487	13	6	97	43,032	0	3

J. D. PINNOCK,

Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court.

No. 33.

PREFERABLE LIENS ON WOOL. MORTGAGES ON LIVE STOCK—SYDNEY.

RETURN of the Number and Amount of Preferable Liens on Wool, and of Mortgages on Live Stock, in the Colony of New South Wales, registered at Sydney, since the passing of the Act of Council, 7 Vict., No. 3, 15th September, 1843, to 31st December, 1847, inclusive.

Year.	Preferable Liens on Wool.			Mortgages on Live Stock.				
	Number of Liens.	Number of Sheep.	Amount of Liens.	Number of Mortgages.	Number of Sheep.	Number of Cattle.	Number of Horses.	Amount Lent.
			£. s. d.					£. s. d.
1843	54	318,739	30,664 18 5	96	397,995	44,430	903	178,567 6 10
1844	139	837,997	57,733 1 10	226	694,381	81,679	2,158	241,727 6 11
1845	125	657,989	55,865 18 7	152	464,713	49,131	1,568	132,355 7 7
1846	149	813,951	71,351 5 0	146	491,518	42,870	1,070	150,733 0 8
1847	199	1,095,402	107,447 16 10	168	623,257	45,578	1,110	137,856 15 1

N.B.—When any sum has been secured both by a lien on the wool and by a mortgage of the sheep, the amount has been included under the head of mortgages only.

WILLIAM CARTER,

Registrar-General.

No. 34.

PREFERABLE LIENS ON WOOL. MORTGAGES ON LIVE STOCK—PORT PHILLIP.

RETURN of the Number and Amount of Preferable Liens on Wool, and of Mortgages on Live Stock, in the Colony of New South Wales, registered at Port Phillip, since the passing of the Act of Council, 7 Vict., No. 3, 15th September, 1843, to 31st December, 1847, inclusive.

Year.	Preferable Liens on Wool.			Mortgages on Live Stock.				
	Number of Liens.	Number of Sheep.	Amount of Liens.	Number of Mortgages.	Number of Sheep.	Number of Cattle.	Number of Horses.	Amount Lent.
			£. s. d.					£. s. d.
1843	9	37,910	4,959 13 9	28	57,338	4,240	310	24,131 18 11
1844	66	275,168	23,022 12 0	117	345,159	19,655	629	129,008 2 8
1845	37	168,793	11,784 14 6	71	149,536	8,175	136	44,383 18 4
1846	22	133,375	11,159 17 4	85	251,402	12,506	227	100,071 7 4
1847	43	284,202	33,790 12 10	125	539,924	22,252	480	135,907 4 6

J. D. PINNOCK,

Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court.

Registrar-General's Office, Sydney,

January 30, 1847.

SIR,

IN transmitting to you the returns required by your Circular of the 2nd November last, I do myself the honour to observe that, in the return of the number of sheep and amount of money advanced under the Lien Act, it would appear as if an additional sum was advanced each subsequent year upon that mentioned to have been advanced the year previous. It must, however, be borne in mind that as the Lien Act only authorises an advance to be made on the ensuing clip of wool, the liens are renewable every year, and that consequently the same sheep and money may be included in one year as that mentioned for the previous year. The same remark may also apply to the mortgages of sheep, cattle, and horses, as the mortgages are generally made redeemable a twelvemonth from the date thereof.

In the return of the amount secured by mortgages of real estate, however, the repayment of the

NEW SOUTH WALES.

amount is, upon an average, required to be made every three or four years, and that, consequently, in the return under this head, the same money may have been re-lent and re-secured three times during the period (10 years) included in this return. Under these circumstances I have not given a general total of the amount, as it might lead to a false conclusion.

In other respects, I beg to observe the accompanying returns are correct.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

WILLIAM CARTER, Registrar-General.

No. 35.

IMPORTS—PORT OF SYDNEY.

RETURN of the Quantity and Value of Articles Imported into the Colony of New South Wales (exclusive of the District of Port Phillip) during the Year 1847.

Articles Imported.		Estimated Value in Pounds Sterling.							
Description.	Quantity.	From Great Britain.	British Colonies.		South Sea Islands.	Fisheries.	United States of America.	Foreign States.	Total.
			New Zealand.	Elsewhere.					
		£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Agricultural Implements	109 packages.	25	15	..	..	..	..	..	40
Alkali	282 tons.	2,732	..	13	..	..	..	..	2,745
Ambergris	72 lbs.	..	80	..	..	..	..	..	80
Apparel and Slops	1,788 bales.	56,634	26	1,108	190	..	..	..	57,958
Arms and Gunpowder	9 cases.	58	5	120	..	..	..	..	183
Ammunition.	29,215 lbs.	1,568	..	130	..	..	..	..	1,698
	Shot	407 cwt.	..	..	..	..	..	..	574
	Percussion Caps	20 cases.	618	..	..	..	..	..	618
Arrowroot and Sago	546 cwt.	164	11	109	240	..	..	..	524
Bags and Sacks	727 bales.	9,298	..	772	10	..	..	35	10,115
Bark	112 tons.	..	20	102	..	..	..	..	122
Bellows, Smiths'	65 pairs.	273	..	..	..	..	..	..	273
Beer and Ale	508,011 gallons.	63,283	2	113	..	..	..	..	63,398
Blacking	320 casks.	782	..	35	..	..	..	..	817
Blankets and Counterpanes	335 bales.	12,126	100	101	..	..	..	..	12,327
Bran	416 bushels.	..	..	12	..	..	..	..	12
Bricks, Bath, &c.	93 hogshheads.	142	..	..	..	..	..	..	142
Brushware	223 packages.	1,910	..	12	..	..	10	..	1,932
Butter and Cheese	61 cwt.	56	44	30	..	..	..	..	130
Candles	47,903 lbs.	1,800	..	345	..	..	80	15	2,240
Candlewick	79 bales.	564	..	200	..	..	..	..	764
Canvas	444 "	5,059	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,059
Carpeting	77 "	2,406	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,406
Carriages and Carriage materials	84 packages.	395	..	5	..	..	..	..	400
Cement	424 barrels.	390	..	3	..	..	..	..	393
Coffee	8,724 cwt.	591	..	1,579	..	..	..	7,795	9,965
Colours, Painters'	4,010 casks.	3,943	5	4	..	..	..	110	4,062
Confection and Preserves	1,258 cases.	297	..	408	..	..	..	197	902
Copper	2,644 cwt.	12,182	61	330	93	..	20	..	12,686
Copper Ore	556 tons.	..	1,048	2,740	..	..	..	..	3,788
Cordage and Rope	9,616 cwt.	7,681	478	1,151	..	..	..	3,619	12,929
Corks and Bungs	307 bales.	1,574	..	81	..	..	..	..	1,655
Cottons	2,685 "	99,965	55	1,373	..	..	52	..	101,445
Curiosities	27 cases.	..	1	21	2	..	..	2	26
Drugs and Medicines	2,370 "	11,757	100	331	..	..	..	10	12,198
Dye wood	500 feet.	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2
Earthenware and China	1,917 crates.	15,162	31	64	..	..	..	133	15,390
Fireworks	1 case.	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Fish, Salt	3,192 packages.	4,439	2	1	34	..	..	..	4,476
Flax and Hemp	1,195 cwt.	..	630	..	..	..	..	..	630
Flour and Bread	1,435 tons.	..	..	8,563	..	..	..	..	8,563
Fruits	4,334 cwt.	5,759	..	399	..	..	..	..	6,158
	Green	1,829 packages.	..	10	34	..	..	..	426
Furniture	806 "	1,956	3	247	..	..	390	92	2,688
Furs	10 cases.	90	..	..	..	..	..	30	120
Glass and Glassware	5,490 "	11,074	415	48	..	..	..	..	11,537
Glass, Looking	48 "	1,083	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,083
Glue	32 cwt.	64	..	..	..	..	..	..	64
Grain	Wheat	218,877 bushels.	..	26,019	3	..	..	..	26,022
	Oats and Barley	21,996 "	..	2,399	..	..	..	..	2,399
	Rice	6,984 cwt.	..	1,660	2	..	..	350	2,012
Grindery	113 casks.	1,388	..	10	..	..	..	..	1,398
Grindstones	23 No.	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Gum	110 cwt.	..	6	10	..	..	..	..	16
Haberdashery	1,758 cases.	71,172	27	354	..	..	..	44	71,597
Hardware and Ironmongery	7,991 packages.	63,411	446	179	9	..	9	59	64,113
Hats, Caps, and Bonnets	510 cases.	14,588	5	88	..	..	..	878	15,559
Hatters' materials	47 cases.	1,651	..	2	..	..	..	..	1,653
Hay	82 tons.	..	..	169	..	..	..	..	169
Hops	1,258 pockets.	8,038	..	133	..	..	429	..	8,600
Horse hair	36 bags.	651	..	..	..	..	..	..	651
Hosiery and Gloves	271 cases.	12,868	..	300	..	..	..	..	13,168
Instruments	Musical	95 "	3,575	25	..	..	..	..	3,600
	Scientific	14 "	382	..	..	..	..	..	382
Iron and Steel	1,833 tons.	20,563	165	289	58	..	..	..	21,075
Jewellery	39 cases.	3,051	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,051
Lacquered ware	260 "	..	..	223	..	..	..	440	663
Lard	5 cwt.	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	7
Lead	218 tons.	3,842	180	6	..	..	..	..	4,028
Lead Ore	26 "	..	..	200	..	..	..	..	200
Leather	26 cases.	1,172	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,172
	Unmanufactured	484 trunks.	10,789	10	572	10	..	20	11,401
	Boots and Shoes	320 gallons.	42	42

STATE OF HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

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Return of the Quantity and Value of Articles Imported into the Colony of New South Wales, &c.—continued.

Articles Imported.		Estimated Value in Pounds Sterling.							
Description.	Quantity.	From Great Britain.	British Colonies.		South Sea Islands.	Fisheries.	United States of America.	Foreign States.	Total.
			New Zealand.	Elsewhere.					
Linen	2,005 cases.	£. 61,604	£. 30	£. 2,118	£.	£.	£.	£.	£. 63,752
Live Stock. {Horses	4 No.	..	..	126	..	..	..	..	126
Sheep	46 "	500	..	4	..	..	..	..	504
Lucifer Matches	68 cases.	565	..	40	..	..	..	..	605
Machinery	1,056 cwt.	2,966	124	..	..	..	..	..	3,090
Malt	502 casks.	1,200	..	14	..	..	..	..	1,214
Marble	5 cases.	50	..	..	..	..	..	..	50
Mats and Rugs	438 rollers.	141	..	203	..	..	..	35	379
Millinery	354 cases.	17,002	..	90	..	..	..	..	17,092
Mill Stones.	578 No.	341	..	..	..	..	..	..	341
Molasses	7,046 cwt.	32	..	663	3	..	..	897	1,595
Nails. {Iron	2,478 kegs.	5,997	38	38	..	..	..	..	6,073
Copper	49 "	314	..	..	..	..	..	..	314
Oakum	29 tons.	793	..	60	..	..	..	..	853
Oatmeal and Pearl Barley	109 barrels.	209	4	..	..	..	..	..	213
Oil. {Sperm	1,002 tuns.	40	16,346	777	240	40,012	..	..	57,415
Black	300 "	..	2,710	..	..	1,225	..	..	3,935
Linseed.	22,807 gallons.	3,567	..	170	..	..	..	..	3,737
Olive	1,395 "	277	..	104	..	..	..	3	384
Palm	15 cwt.	30	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Cocoa Nut	162 tuns.	..	100	..	2,577	..	..	..	2,677
Oil Cloth	16 cases.	310	..	..	..	..	..	..	310
Oilman's Stores	11,398 "	33,400	30	371	11	..	14	19	33,845
Onions	433 cwt.	..	..	104	..	..	..	..	104
Peas, Split	40 barrels.	128	..	1	..	..	..	..	129
Pepper and Spices	1,587 cwt.	647	..	481	..	..	..	383	1,511
Perfumery	267 cases.	2,420	..	6	..	..	..	2	2,428
Pipes, Tobacco	1,225 boxes.	1,426	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,426
Pictures and Paintings.	22 cases.	318	..	..	..	..	..	..	318
Plants and Seeds	144 packages.	226	2	43	..	..	4	..	275
Plate and Plated Ware.	43 cases.	2,611	..	155	..	..	..	..	2,766
Pitch and Tar	864 barrels.	796	..	30	..	..	..	..	826
Potatoes and Yams	1,122 tuns.	..	..	2,038	..	..	..	..	2,038
Provisions. {Preserved	144 cases.	763	..	..	..	..	..	..	763
Salted	894 barrels.	2,447	..	92	..	..	..	111	2,650
Rattans	10,578 bundles.	..	..	83	..	..	..	264	347
Resin	456 barrels.	79	..	17	..	..	50	..	146
Saddlery and Harness	309 cases.	9,679	..	186	..	..	..	..	9,865
Salt	3,741 tuns.	9,185	..	566	..	..	..	..	9,751
Ship Chandlery	1,141 packages.	3,033	17	60	..	..	399	5	3,504
Shooks and Staves	52,788 No.	205	365	127	..	..	90	..	787
Silks	279 cases.	16,271	70	289	..	..	..	1,357	17,987
Skins. {Neat Cattle	319 No.	..	34	..	..	..	..	..	34
Kangaroo	113 bales.	..	..	2,167	..	..	..	..	2,167
Seal	1 cask.	..	20	..	..	..	..	..	20
Sheep	58 bales.	..	56	10	..	..	..	..	66
Slates	86,500 No.	610	8	..	..	..	..	..	618
Soap	1,709 cwt.	2,872	..	1	2	..	..	..	2,875
Specie	5 cases.	2,150	..	5,000	..	..	..	..	7,150
Spirits. {Brandy	139,808 gallons.	47,649	140	2,973	..	..	..	270	51,032
Rum	274,524 "	40,953	332	5,215	..	..	..	2,360	48,860
Gin	69,590 "	11,288	..	20	..	..	..	3,485	14,793
Whiskey	6,661 "	2,082	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,082
Liqueurs	1,224 "	471	8	44	..	..	..	..	523
Starch and Blue	882 cases.	1,924	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,924
Stationery and Books	1,889 "	39,794	8	445	..	..	..	393	40,640
Sugar. {Refined	2,334 cwt.	4,407	15	294	..	..	..	..	4,716
Raw	9,265 tuns.	..	40	28,466	203	..	..	86,487	115,196
Tallow	227 casks.	9	76	48	129	..	..	..	262
Tea	3,650,056 lbs.	4,896	23	145,284	..	..	..	50,456	200,659
Timber. {Deals	1,615 No.	216	..	5	..	..	..	..	221
Spars	395,680 feet.	..	1,039	25	..	..	..	..	1,064
Sawn	60,800 "	31	..	110	..	..	..	..	141
Sandal Wood.	351 tuns.	..	..	..	3,000	..	..	..	3,000
Tin and Tinware	1,220 boxes.	1,527	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,527
Tobacco, Cigars, and Snuff	519,318 lbs.	12,146	681	4,451	51	..	..	18,056	35,385
Tortoiseshell	45 "	..	..	..	18	..	..	..	18
Toys and Turnery	726 cases.	2,791	..	143	..	..	..	162	3,096
Turpentine and Varnish	4,709 gallons.	1,237	18	..	..	..	..	..	1,255
Twine and Thread	595 bales.	2,868	..	170	..	..	..	..	3,038
Umbrellas and Parasols	21 cases.	926	..	..	..	..	..	..	926
Vinegar	25,853 gallons.	1,896	..	57	..	..	..	8	1,961
Watches and Clocks	54 cases.	569	..	180	..	..	..	..	749
Whalebone	114 cwt.	..	252	..	..	320	..	..	572
Whaling Gear	2 bundles.	..	..	20	..	..	..	..	20
Wicker Ware	726 packages.	256	..	302	..	..	..	120	68
Wine	185,536 gallons.	25,819	80	954	..	..	..	133	26,986
Wooden Ware	259 packages.	543	..	133	..	..	..	..	676
Wool	25,818 lbs.	..	269	60	..	..	..	..	329
Woollens	1,671 bales.	77,877	21	510	..	..	..	..	78,408
Woolpacks and bagging	293 "	5,741	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,741
Zinc	13 cwt.	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Total Imports in 1847		1,028,817	26,971	259,678	6,919	41,557	1,550	178,835	1,544,327
Total Imports in previous year		905,912	23,183	152,064	21,799	56,461	4,459	151,073	1,314,951

J. GIBBES, Collector.

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IMPORTS—PORT PHILLIP.

RETURN of the Quantity and Value of Articles Imported into the District of Port Phillip, during the Year 1847.

Articles Imported.		Estimated Value in Pounds Sterling.							
Description.	Quantity.	From Great Britain.	British Colonies.		South Sea Islands.	Fisheries.	United States of America.	Foreign States.	Total.
			New Zealand.	Elsewhere.					
Agricultural Implements	45 No.	£. 315	£.	£. 308	£.	£.	£.	£.	£. 623
Alkali (Soda)	126 casks.	897	..	..	..	..	..	..	897
Apparel and Slops	2,293 packages.	45,421	..	4,079	..	..	..	..	49,500
Arms and Ammunition { Guns	18 cases.	120	..	21	..	..	..	..	141
{ Gunpowder	1,030 lbs.	515	..	115	..	..	..	..	630
{ Shot	6 tons.	301	..	..	..	..	..	..	301
Arrowroot and Sago	101 casks.	10	..	111	..	..	..	..	121
Bags (empty)	610 bales.	9,110	..	1,651	..	..	..	2	10,763
Beer and Ale	178,699 galls.	18,106	..	2,317	..	..	..	..	20,423
Blacking	192 casks.	373	..	95	..	..	..	..	468
Bricks (Fire and Bath)	13,000 No.	71	..	..	..	..	..	..	71
Buckets	26 bundles.	..	..	30	..	..	..	..	30
Candles	4,015 lbs.	148	..	..	..	..	..	..	148
Canvas	109 bales.	3,156	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,156
Carpeting	3	36	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
Carriages	44 No.	605	..	569	..	..	..	..	1,174
Carts and Drays	89	..	..	648	..	..	..	..	648
Cement	55 barrels.	190	..	..	..	..	..	..	190
Cheese and Butter	3,332 lbs.	283	..	..	..	..	..	..	283
Clocks	66 No.	186	..	84	..	..	..	..	270
Coals and Coke	255 tons.	315	..	18	..	..	..	..	333
Cocoa Nuts	500	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	10
Coffee and Chocolate	86 tons.	100	..	806	..	..	..	1,268	2,174
Colours, Painters'	315 casks.	1,032	..	57	..	..	..	..	1,089
Confection and Preserves	42 packages.	..	..	47	..	..	..	9	56
Cordage and Rope	88 tons.	1,327	30	778	..	..	..	750	2,885
Copper Ore	70	..	..	500	..	..	..	..	500
Corks	151 bales.	512	..	70	..	..	..	..	582
Cottons	1,315 packages.	41,728	..	2,794	..	..	..	..	44,522
Cutlery	22	921	..	70	..	..	..	..	991
Drugs and Medicines	679	3,207	..	451	..	..	..	10	3,668
Earthenware	832 crates.	7,296	..	660	..	..	..	..	7,956
Fish (Salt)	825 packages.	718	..	150	..	..	..	..	868
Flour	947 tons.	..	..	7,924	..	..	..	..	7,924
Fruits { Dried	950 packages.	1,051	..	469	..	..	..	..	1,520
{ Green	2,599	..	..	944	..	..	..	..	944
Fruit Trees	105	..	..	74	..	..	..	..	74
Furniture	759	351	..	1,936	..	..	..	..	2,287
Glass (Window)	1,802 boxes.	3,248	..	36	..	..	..	..	3,284
Glassware	372 packages.	2,942	..	174	..	..	..	..	3,116
Grain { Barley	672 bushels.	14	..	124	..	..	..	..	138
{ Oats	14,801	..	..	1,787	..	..	..	..	1,787
{ Rice	117 tons.	..	..	17	..	..	..	873	890
{ Wheat	5,845 bushels.	1	..	751	..	..	..	..	752
Grindery	2 packages.	31	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
Haberdashery	602	19,534	..	2,939	..	..	..	..	22,473
Hardware and Ironmongery	3,619	26,804	..	6,466	..	..	..	..	33,270
Hats and Bonnets	198	3,777	..	55	..	..	..	80	3,912
Hay and Straw	41 tons.	..	..	141	..	..	..	..	141
Hops	429 pockets.	2,919	..	1,035	..	..	..	..	3,954
Hosiery and Gloves	59 cases.	1,240	..	135	..	..	..	..	1,375
Iron and Steel	670 tons.	8,295	..	425	..	..	..	..	8,720
Lead	14	173	..	115	..	..	..	..	288
Leather { Unmanufactured	23	375	..	729	..	..	..	..	1,104
{ Boots and Shoes	247 packages.	4,536	..	665	..	..	..	..	5,201
Linens	268	7,891	..	115	..	..	..	..	8,006
Live Stock { Horses	587 No.	1,210	..	3,612	..	..	..	..	4,822
{ Horned Cattle	22	..	..	63	..	..	..	..	63
{ Sheep	2,239	105	..	659	..	..	..	..	764
Lucifer Matches	53 cases.	204	..	272	..	..	..	..	476
Machinery	13 tons.	..	..	280	..	..	..	..	280
Malt	473 bushels.	..	..	84	..	..	..	..	84
Musical Instruments (Pianofortes)	14 No.	150	..	408	..	..	..	..	558
Nails	2,132 casks.	2,816	..	517	..	..	..	..	3,333
Oatmeal	3,641 lbs.	44	..	6	..	..	..	..	50
Oil { Spermaceti	60 galls.	10	..	15	..	..	..	..	25
{ Black	3,380	30	..	603	..	..	..	..	633
{ Linseed	1,489	309	..	231	..	..	..	..	540
{ Olive	291	64	..	88	..	..	..	..	152
Oil Cloth	64 rolls.	450	..	65	..	..	..	..	515
Oilman's Stores	4,667 packages.	8,262	..	1,734	..	..	..	1	9,997
Pepper and Spices	25,209 lbs.	270	..	21	..	..	..	336	627
Perfumery	12 cases.	290	..	35	..	..	..	..	325
Pipes, Tobacco	693 packages.	762	..	75	..	..	..	..	837
Pitch, Tar, and Resin	9 casks.	..	..	11	..	..	..	..	11
Plate, Silver	2 packages.	..	..	15	..	..	..	..	15
Potatoes	105 tons.	..	9	206	..	..	..	..	215
Provisions (Hams and Bacon)	189 cwt.	423	..	81	..	..	..	..	504
Saddlery and Harness	365 packages.	8,552	..	217	..	..	..	..	8,769
Salt	970 tons.	3,281	..	257	..	..	..	..	3,538
Seeds	40 casks.	57	..	20	..	..	..	..	77
Shooks and Staves	14,422 No.	..	..	708	..	..	..	..	708
Silks	40 packages.	2,940	..	93	..	..	..	..	3,033
Skins (Kangaroo)	639 dozen.	118	118

STATE OF HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

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Return of the Quantity and Value of Articles Imported into the District of Port Phillip, &c.—continued.

Articles Imported.		Estimated Value in Pounds Sterling.							
Description.	Quantity.	From Great Britain.	British Colonies.		South Sea Islands.	Fisheries.	United States of America.	Foreign States.	Total.
			New Zealand.	Elsewhere.					
Slates	43,600 No.	£. 177	£. ..	£. ..	£. ..	£. ..	£. ..	£. ..	£. 177
Soap	15 tons.	630	..	136	..	..	..	..	766
Spirits	Brandy 41,694 galls.	7,875	..	6,671	..	..	..	..	14,546
	Gin 23,860 „	3,932	..	457	..	..	..	650	5,039
	Whiskey 3,818 „	1,979	..	458	..	..	..	..	2,437
	Cordials 83 „	..	..	41	..	..	..	..	41
	Rum 57,983 „	5,783	..	5,239	..	..	..	..	11,022
Stationery and Books	742 packages.	10,886	..	614	..	..	..	..	11,500
Stone	31 tons.	..	..	153	..	..	..	..	153
„ Grind	614 No.	163	..	3	..	..	..	..	166
Sugar	Refined 347 tons.	5,679	..	646	..	..	..	..	6,325
	Raw 1,414 „	285	..	8,040	..	..	..	13,207	21,532
Tarpaulings	11 bales.	225	..	40	..	..	..	..	265
Tar (Spirits of)	608 galls.	107	..	..	..	..	..	..	107
Tea	319,437 lbs.	1,522	..	9,925	..	..	..	..	11,447
	20,803 No.	1,390	..	266	..	..	..	..	1,656
Timber	Deals and Battens 1,424,800 „	..	..	451	..	..	..	..	451
	Laths 675,742 „	..	..	2,155	..	..	..	..	2,155
	Paling 2,633,600 „	..	..	870	..	..	..	..	870
	Shingles 2,026,951 feet.	97	137	5,139	..	..	..	..	5,393
Tin	410 boxes.	723	..	5	..	..	..	..	728
Tobacco and Cigars	258,136 lbs.	3,766	12	3,575	..	..	..	..	7,353
Turpentine	620 galls.	181	..	12	..	..	..	..	193
Vinegar	11,575 „	748	..	172	..	..	..	..	920
Wine	63,258 „	7,637	..	2,092	..	..	..	..	9,729
Woollens	403 bales.	14,229	..	713	..	..	..	..	14,942
Sundries—Bamboos, Bark, Bran, and Tallow . . . . .	..	..	..	15	..	..	..	1	16
Total Imports for the year 1847		318,424	188	101,887	..	..	..	17,197	437,696
Total Imports in previous year		213,389	184	87,512	..	..	..	14,486	315,571

W. N. LLEWELLIN, Acting Collector.

No. 37.

EXPORTS—PORT OF SYDNEY.

RETURN of the Quantity and Value of Articles Exported from the Colony of New South Wales (exclusive of the District of Port Phillip), during the Year 1847.

Articles Exported.		Estimated Value in Pounds Sterling.							
Description.	Quantity.	To Great Britain.	British Colonies.		South Sea Islands.	Fisheries.	United States of America.	Foreign States.	Total.
			New Zealand.	Elsewhere.					
Ambergris	25 lbs.	£. 25	£. ..	£. ..	£. ..	£. ..	£. ..	£. ..	£. 25
Apparel	2 cases.	..	10	..	10	..	..	..	20
Bags and Sacks	6 bales.	..	..	86	..	..	..	..	86
Bark	13 tons.	55	..	..	..	..	..	..	55
Baskets	7 packages.	..	7	10	..	..	..	..	17
Beer and Ale	10,372 gallons.	..	118	564	3	..	..	..	685
Bees'-wax	3 packages.	1	4	2	..	..	..	..	7
Blacking	20 casks.	..	10	75	..	..	..	..	85
Bone-dust	22 tons 8 cwt.	..	2	97	..	..	..	..	99
Bran	2,563 bushels.	..	56	5	..	..	..	71	132
Bricks	120,600	..	8	..	150	..	..	..	158
Butter and Cheese	59 tons 2 cwt.	..	1,624	1,008	50	..	..	121	2,803
Candles	Tallow 163,996 lbs.	..	2,007	679	113	..	..	30	2,829
	Sperm 28 boxes.	..	29	57	..	..	..	..	86
Carts and Waggon	100	..	148	852	..	..	..	..	1,000
Coals and Coke	5,850 tons.	90	766	2,223	72	..	..	660	3,811
Confection and Preserves	192 packages.	26	185	113	..	..	..	..	324
Earthenware	24 crates.	..	52	109	..	..	..	..	161
Flour and Bread	651 tons.	14	5,227	546	629	..	..	1,342	7,758
Fruit	1,829 packages.	..	215	1,555	..	..	..	..	1,770
Furniture	262 „	..	392	856	..	..	..	..	1,248
Glassware	7 casks.	..	..	30	..	..	..	..	30
Grain	Barley 383 bushels.	..	306	225	..	..	..	..	531
	Oats 381 „	..	16	..	..	..	..	39	55
	Maize 59,514 „	6	892	3,437	..	..	..	386	4,721
Hardware	{ 25 packages & 3 tons } 14 cwt. 3 qrs.	20	149	7	15	..	..	..	191
Hats and Caps	42 cases.	..	4	838	..	..	..	..	842
Hay	3 tons 7 cwt.	..	..	15	..	..	..	2	17
Honey	20 cwt.	5	7	20	..	..	..	..	32
Hoofs, Horns, and Bones	751,315	2,242	..	15	..	..	..	630	2,887
Leather	{ Unmanufactured } 26 tons 17 cwt.	540	1,068	110	..	..	..	70	1,788
	{ Boots and Shoes } 23 cases.	..	294	..	10	..	..	5	309

Return of the Quantity and Value of Articles Exported from the Colony of New South Wales, &c.—*continued.*

Articles Exported.		Estimated Value in Pounds Sterling.							
Description.	Quantity.	To Great Britain.	British Colonies.		South Sea Islands.	Fisheries.	United States of America.	Foreign States.	Total.
			New Zealand.	Elsewhere.					
		£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Live Stock . {Horses	399	..	2,523	3,105	..	..	..	135	5,763
{Horned Cattle	1,598	..	3,087	27	344	..	..	12	3,470
{Sheep	13,421	..	3,630	202	165	..	..	93	4,090
{Goats	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	10
{Pigs	1	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	3
Lucifer Matches	7 cases.	..	8	16	..	..	..	..	24
Machinery	4 „	..	..	30	..	..	..	..	30
Malt	100 bushels.	..	20	..	..	..	..	..	20
Molasses	13 tons 8 cwt. 2 qrs.	..	144	..	..	..	..	15	159
Oatmeal, Pearl Barley, &c.	26 tons.	..	104	337	..	..	..	..	441
Oil . . . {Sperm	1,214 tons.	72,675	..	40	..	..	..	..	72,715
{Black	287 „	5,348	..	25	..	..	..	..	5,373
Oilman's Stores	90 packages.	..	151	38	..	..	..	..	189
Pictures	6 cases.	65	..	5	..	..	..	..	90
Pitch and Tar	98 barrels.	..	10	109	..	..	..	..	119
Plants and Seeds	28 cases.	15	6	38	..	..	..	6	65
Potatoes	22 tons 6 cwt.	2	..	3	13	..	..	52	69
Preserved Meats	224 packages.	307	59	4	1	..	..	150	521
Provisions, Salt {Beef	4,334 casks.	3,704	778	975	645	..	..	5,020	11,122
{Pork	1 „	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	4
{Tongues	127 „	17	57	6	12	..	..	133	225
{Hams and Bacon	10 tons 18 cwt.	2	38	177	15	..	..	185	417
Saddlery and Harness	5 packages.	..	50	5	..	..	..	..	55
{Neat Cattle	1,711 tons 6 cwt.	30,766	..	2,166	..	..	..	..	32,932
{Sheep	178 packages.	186	..	3	..	..	..	..	169
Skins . . . {Calf	10 „	..	..	25	..	..	..	..	25
{Kangaroo	2 boxes.	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
{Goat	29 in No.	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
{Pig	57 in No.	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Soap	156 tons 19 cwt. 2 qrs.	..	1,651	1,574	229	..	..	30	3,484
Specimens of Natural History	47 packages.	253	..	11	..	..	..	..	264
Spirits	1,629 gallons.	..	80	342	..	..	..	..	422
Starch and Blue	5 cases.	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	9
Stationery and Books	3 boxes.	..	..	25	..	..	..	..	25
Stones . . {Grind	110	3	27	3	2	..	..	..	35
{Building	88 tons.	..	..	178	..	..	..	..	178
Sugar, Refined	176 tons 3 cwt. 2 qrs.	..	2,630	..	74	..	..	4,568	7,272
Tallow	2,910 tons 7 cwt.	90,629	65	650	..	..	..	440	91,784
{Cedar	953,995 feet.	105	117	5,496	226	..	..	80	6,024
{Pine	15,750 „	20	..	53	..	..	..	..	73
Timber . . {Hardwood	15,600 „	..	..	118	2	..	..	..	120
{Shingles	75,500 „	..	..	..	30	..	..	..	30
{Treenails and Spokes	163,178	874	..	37	..	..	..	..	911
Tinware	3 packages.	..	20	..	..	..	..	..	20
Turnery	29 cases.	..	..	139	..	..	..	..	139
Vinegar	340 gallons.	..	53	16	..	..	..	..	69
Whalebone	7 tons 3 cwt. 3 qrs.	1,210	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,210
Whaling Gear . . . . .	..	..	..	30	..	..	..	..	30
Wine	833 gallons.	16	80	2	..	..	..	..	98
Woodenware	4 packages.	..	2	25	1	..	..	..	28
Wool	12,000,073 lbs.	696,868	..	10	..	..	..	..	696,878
Woollen Manufactures (Tweed)	52 packages.	..	305	976	..	..	..	..	1,281
Sundries, viz.:—Groceries, Looking-Glasses, Goats' Hair, Salt, and various other Articles not enumerated . . . . .	..	18	27	77	..	..	..	5	127
Total Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of New South Wales, including the Fisheries		906,160	29,327	30,639	2,810	..	..	14,290	983,226
Total Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of the United Kingdom		7,031	56,502	47,259	10,217	..	..	1,497	122,506
Total Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of other British Dominions		5,230	2,547	6,983	124	..	..	981	15,865
Total Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of Foreign States		8,204	29,113	27,358	1,080	..	..	71	65,826
Total Exports in 1847		926,625	117,489	112,239	14,231	..	..	16,839	1,187,423
Total Exports in previous Year		805,898	105,531	122,471	13,441	590	..	8,407	1,056,338

J. GIBBES, Collector.

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No. 38.
EXPORTS.—PORT OF NEWCASTLE.

RETURN of the Quantity and Value of Articles Exported from the Port of Newcastle during the Year 1847.

Articles Exported.		Estimated Value in Pounds Sterling.							
Description.	Quantity.	To Great Britain.	British Colonies.		South Sea Islands.	Fisheries.	'United States of America.	Foreign States.	Total.
			New Zealand.	Elsewhere.					
		£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Candles	200 pounds.	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	5
Coals	2,450 tons.	..	593	209	..	..	..	82	884
Earthenware	3 crates.	..	23	..	..	..	..	..	23
Flour	2,000 pounds.	..	13	..	..	..	..	..	13
Fruit	14 packages.	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	15
Grain. . . {Barley	102 bushels.	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	15
{Maize	2,748 „	..	197	..	..	..	..	60	257
Hay	10½ tons.	..	39	..	..	..	..	6	45
Live Stock . {Horses	58	..	505	..	..	..	..	..	505
{Horned Cattle	379	..	668	..	..	..	..	..	668
{Sheep	3,484	..	1,192	..	..	..	..	..	1,192
Specimens of Natural History	2 cases.	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Tallow	30,428 pounds.	600	..	..	..	..	..	..	600
Wool	169,611 „	9,435	..	..	..	..	..	..	9,435
Sundries	3 packages.	2	12	..	..	..	..	..	14
Total Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of New South Wales		10,049	3,277	209	..	..	..	148	13,683
Total Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of the United Kingdom . . . . .		..	429	..	..	..	..	..	429
Total Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of other British Dominions . . . . .		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of Foreign States . . . . .		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total Exports in 1847 £		10,049	3,706	209	..	..	..	148	14,112

C. BOLTON, Sub-Collector.

No. 39.
EXPORTS. PORT PHILLIP.

RETURN of the Quantity and Value of Articles Exported from the District of Port Phillip during the Year 1847.

Articles Exported.		Estimated Value in Pounds Sterling.							
Description.	Quantity.	To Great Britain.	British Colonies.		South Sea Islands.	Fisheries.	United States of America.	Foreign States.	Total.
			New Zealand	Elsewhere.					
Bark	6½ tons.	£. 20	£. ..	£. ..	£. ..	£. ..	£. ..	£. ..	£. 20
Bones, horns, and hoofs	166½ „	1,560	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,560
Butter	65,608 pounds.	..	..	1,879	..	..	..	..	1,879
Cheese	55,888 „	..	..	1,295	..	..	..	..	1,295
Candles	24 cwt.	..	..	139	..	..	..	..	139
Curiosities	26 packages.	133	..	7	..	..	..	..	140
Flour and bread	146½ tons.	..	565	733	..	..	..	..	1,388
Grain. . . {Wheat	8,820 bushels.	1,751	..	180	..	..	..	..	1,931
{Oats	350 „	..	..	35	..	..	..	..	35
Leather, Unmanufactured	14½ tons.	424	..	34	..	..	..	..	458
Live Stock . . {Horses	9	..	..	95	..	..	..	..	95
{Horned Cattle	6,057	..	120	18,844	..	..	..	..	18,964
{Sheep	54,535	..	21	22,574	..	..	..	..	22,595
Oil, Black	43½ tons.	150	..	880	..	..	..	..	1,030
Papers	5 boxes.	88	..	..	..	..	..	..	88
Potatoes	62 tons.	10	120	54	..	..	..	..	184
Provisions {Beef and pork	17,335 cwt.	31	..	11,943	..	..	..	..	11,974
{Bacon	8 „	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	8
{Hams	32 in No.	3	..	4	..	..	..	..	7
{Neat cattle	8,508 „	790	..	2,340	..	..	..	..	3,130
{Sheep	7,400 „	..	..	125	..	..	..	..	125
Skins . . . {Kangaroo and Opossum	46 dozen.	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Soap	129 tons.	..	..	2,818	..	..	..	..	2,818
Sugar, Refined	1 „	..	..	36	..	..	..	..	36
Tallow	11,212 cwt.	14,246	..	1,556	..	..	..	..	15,802
Timber	15,500 feet.	130	..	1	..	..	..	..	131
Treenails	2,470 in No.	44	..	..	..	..	..	..	44
Whalebone	20 cwt.	..	..	200	..	..	..	..	200
Wool	10,210,038 pounds.	546,211	..	19,594	..	..	..	..	565,805
Sundries, viz. —Beer, Bran, Fruit, Greaves, Linseed, Luggage, Hardware, Mats, Neats-foot Oil, Onions, Oatmeal, Seeds, Woolpress, Wine, Woollens		50	..	179	..	..	..	..	232
Total Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of New South Wales, including the Fisheries		565,653	826	85,643	..	..	..	..	652,122
Total Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of the United Kingdom		408	60	12,982	..	..	..	..	13,450
Total Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of other British Dominions . . . . .		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of Foreign States		356	124	1,859	..	..	..	600	2,939
Total Exports in 1847 £		566,417	1,010	100,484	..	..	..	600	668,511
Total Exports in previous Year £		323,881	746	100,574	425,201

W. N. LLEWELLIN, Acting Collector.
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REPORTS EXHIBITING THE PAST AND PRESENT

NEW SOUTH
WALES.

No. 40.

WHALE FISHERIES—PORT OF SYDNEY.

A RETURN of the Ships and Vessels engaged in the Fisheries that have visited Port Jackson during the last four years; distinguishing those that are Colonial, British, or Foreign, with the Tonnage of each description, and estimated value of the Cargoes disposed of by the last-mentioned class for payment for Repairs, Refitting, and Refreshment.

Years.	Description of Vessels.						Description and Value of Cargo disposed of by Foreign Ships.			
	Colonial.		British.		Foreign.		Sperm Oil.	Black Oil.	Whalebone.	Value.
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.				
1844	13	3,052	3	1,219	12	3,617	Tuns. 122	Tuns. 152	Cwt. 33	£. 4,993
1845	15	3,444	7	2,685	15	5,345	37	122	147	4,269
1846	16	3,894	9	2,287	55	18,147	203	30	129	6,981
1847	23	5,345	4	1,137	43	13,866	368	192	673	15,804

Whalers exempted from Port Charges, 25th February, 1845.

Custom House, Sydney,
18th February, 1848.J. GIBBES,
Collector.

No. 41.

WOOLLENS MANUFACTURED.

RETURN of the Number of Establishments and Quantity of Woollens Manufactured in the Colony of New South Wales during the Year 1847.

	Number of Establishments.	Cloth.	Tweeds.	Blankets.
	8	Yards. 18,484	Yards. 156,604	Number. 424

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 42.

SOAP MANUFACTURED.

RETURN of the Number of Establishments and Quantity of Soap Manufactured in the Colony of New South Wales (including the District of Port Phillip), during the Year 1847.

	Number of Establishments.	Quantity.
	16	Cwt. 25,725

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 43.

TOBACCO MANUFACTURED.

RETURN of the Number of Establishments and Quantity of Tobacco Manufactured in the Colony of New South Wales during the Year 1847.

	Number of Establishments.	Quantity.
	4	Cwt. 1,321

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 44.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

REFINED SUGAR MANUFACTURED.

RETURN of the Number of Establishments and Quantity of Refined Sugar Manufactured in the Colony of New South Wales during the Year 1847.

	Number of Establishments.	Quantity.
	2	Cwt. 39,600

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

VAN DIEMEN'S
LAND.
No. 29.

(No. 115.)

No. 29.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor Sir W. DENISON to Earl GREY.

Van Diemen's Land,
Government House, June 3, 1848.
(Received December 13, 1848.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship the Blue Book of this colony for the year 1847; and I submit the following explanatory remarks upon the various subjects brought under your Lordship's notice therein:—

Revenue.

With reference to the comparative statement of the receipts under different heads for the years 1846 and 1847, it will be seen that there is an increase in the latter year of 40,130*l.* 3*s.*; but in order to give a more correct view of the bearing of this on the financial state of the colony, it will be necessary to enter into an analysis of the cause of the increase, and to look to the several heads under which the amount of revenue is collected.

Of these the most important are the Customs, and it will be seen that on every item there has been a steady increase, with the exception of the light dues, in which there is a slight diminution. The duties on spirits and tobacco show an increase of 3824*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*, or of about 7 per cent., while the *ad valorem* duties have increased from 10,756*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.* to 19,809*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.* This great increase is owing principally to the operation of the 10th Vic., No. 7, by which a duty of 15 per cent. was placed upon goods, &c., imported from New South Wales, placing that colony on the same footing as all other British colonies.

Though I say that the increase is principally to be attributed to the receipt of duties on New South Wales' produce, yet it is no less true that there has been a steady increase in the importation of all other articles, especially of those, such as sugar, &c., which form one of the principal articles of consumption among the lower classes of the community.

Under the other heads of the ordinary revenue, amounting altogether to 25,405*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.*, there is a deficiency, as compared with the receipts of last year, amounting to about 3184*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.* The great deficiencies are under the heads of licences, fees, and tolls; the loss under the head of licences is to be attributed in great measure to the non-collection of the dog tax, which in 1846 produced 3065*l.* 10*s.*, while in 1847 it only produced 366*l.* 5*s.* The circumstances under which this took place have been specially communicated to your Lordship in my former Despatches.

There appears to be a steady decrease in the amount of fees collected, more especially in those received from the sheriff, the courts of requests, and the police magistrates.

I am not at present in possession of data sufficient to enable me to account in a satisfactory manner for the deficiency; but I propose to investigate the matter in the course of the present year.

The loss under the head of tolls is attributable, not to any diminution in the traffic over the ferries in the hands of Government, but to the transfer under

VAN DIEMEN'S
LAND.

the Act 10 Vic. of the tolls received at Bridgewater to the Commissioners for erecting the bridge at that place.

The total increase in the ordinary revenue for 1847 has amounted to 10,344*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.*

In the extraordinary revenue, exclusive of the amount derived from extraneous sources, such as aid from the British Treasury and loans, there has been a decrease of 1714*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.*, so that the total increase in the revenue arising from sources within the colony has been 8630*l.* 3*s.*

The grant from the Home Government of 37,500*l.* for the police and gaols for the whole of 1847, and for the three last quarters of 1846, raised the revenue of 1847 to the sum stated of 150,474*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.*

Expenditure.

On referring to the comparative statement of the expenditure for 1846 and 1847, it will be seen that the outlay in the latter year exceeded that of 1846 by 23,306*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.* This, however, is only an apparent increase, for the payments made in 1847 include in great part the salaries for the last quarter of 1846, which, in consequence of the deficiency of the colonial revenue, could not be paid in that year.

The items forming the largest part of the increase are pauperism, which shows an increase of 3786*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*, and the repayment of debts to the banks, which absorbed altogether a sum of 15,441*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*

On the subject of the former, I have addressed a Despatch to your Lordship, pointing out a mode in which this gradually increasing expenditure may be diminished and kept within bounds.

Under the head of public works there was also an increase of upwards of 2000*l.*

Commissariat Expenditure.

The Commissariat expenditure in 1847 amounted to 293,254*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.*, a diminution upon that of the previous year of about 6000*l.* In future years, however, this diminution will become more evident from the rapid reduction of the establishment connected with the convict department, including the military.

Under the head of the Receipts into the Military Chest, is a sum of 18,745*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.* received from the Colonial Treasurer. A large portion of this consisted of payments from the Land Fund of balances due on account of emigration, and the remainder of money advanced in England to the agent of the colony for the purchase of stores, and of payments made for convict labour or for materials furnished on the spot for the use of the colony.

Troops.

The troops now serving in Van Diemen's Land consist of the 11th and 96th regiments. A detachment of the former is stationed at Norfolk Island. Looking to the diminution in the number of convicts in the colony, and to the increased efficiency of the police, I have expressed an opinion to the Major-General commanding in these colonies, that the duties required from Her Majesty's forces in Van Diemen's Land can be adequately performed by one regiment, mustering not more than 650 men, and I believe that the 96th regiment will be moved accordingly in a short time.

In the meantime, in preparation for such a change, most of the small detachments shown in the return of barracks are being withdrawn, and the troops concentrated in a few points, and those most advantageously situated with reference to any necessity which might possibly arise to compel a movement in force upon any given point.

Colonial Public Buildings.

The buildings of a public nature which have been commenced during the past year have been,—

1st. The bridge over the Derwent at Bridgewater. This, as executed under the provisions of an Act of Council, by which the funds arising from the tolls are specially appropriated towards its construction, does not appear on the estimate.

2nd. The bridge over the river Jordan at Pontville, on the main line of

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road. The old bridge was in a very bad state of repair, owing principally to the imperfect manner in which it had been originally built, and it became necessary to rebuild a large portion of the piers and abutments, and to put a new floor on the whole.

3rd. The bridge on the main line of road over the Blackman River, which was required in order to complete the line from Hobart Town to Launceston.

4th. A bridge over the St. Paul's at Avoca. This is on a line of road which has been formed by the convict department in the direction of Falmouth on the East Coast. By the original scheme it was intended that the expense of its construction should fall jointly on the inhabitants and the Government, but subsequently, a different arrangement was adopted, the Government taking upon itself the whole expense of the work, leaving for an after consideration the propriety of placing a toll upon the bridge.

5th. The Lighthouse on Kent's Group has been completed, and the light was shown on the 23d January last.

The remainder of the outlay upon Public Works has been principally in repairs to public buildings. The largest expenditure has been upon the Government House. This has been left for so many years without any repair that it became absolutely necessary to incur the expense stated, the whole of the ceilings had to be removed and renewed, various repairs to the floors were required, and the whole was painted inside and out.

During the Government of Sir John Franklin, a plan for a new house on a different site was approved, and the building was commenced, but a portion only of the basement was completed. It would be desirable, I think, to erect a new building upon that site, but upon a better and less expensive plan. The sale of the site of the present building and garden would, in all probability, defray the whole cost of the new building.

Convict Public Works.

The expenditure under this head has been devoted principally to repairs. Ranges of separate cells have been constructed at the prisoners' barracks, and a large addition has been made to the Lunatic Asylum at New Norfolk. At the various probation stations which existed on the main land little was done, but at Darlington on Maria Island the labour of the convicts has been applied to the completion of the separate cells. In the same way, at the stations on Tasman's Peninsula, arrangements have been made for carrying out the principles of separation to as great an extent as possible. At Port Arthur a range of separate apartments on the Pentonville plan have been commenced, with the view of substituting this punishment for transportation, and providing for the effectual coercion and restraint of those classes of prisoners who can now only be effectually controlled in Norfolk Island.

I have already reported to your Lordship fully the steps which have been taken with the view of carrying into effect a better system of discipline than has hitherto prevailed in the convict gangs.

The introduction of a system of task-work, as suggested by your Lordship in your instructions to me, dated 30th September, 1846, has been productive of the best effects wherever it has been brought into full operation: the amount of work executed is fully double of what it used to be under the best system of coerced labour, and the moral effect upon the convicts is also very remarkable; crime diminished to an extraordinary extent in those gangs after its introduction; the convicts, when they were assured that they might by industry and good conduct reduce the period of their sentence, showed in most cases an earnest desire to exert themselves, and while the punishment of a certain period of labour on the roads is now more effective than it was, inasmuch as the offender cannot now be idle but is compelled to work, it is at the same time of a more wholesome character, as tending to give him habits and powers which it is to be hoped may have a partial operation upon him when again let loose upon society.

For Earl Grey's Despatch, Sept. 30, 1846, *vide* Correspondence relative to Convict Discipline and Transportation, presented to Parliament by Her Majesty's Command, Feb. 16, 1847, p. 56.

The whole course of proceeding as regarded the convict gangs during the last year led in one direction, that of reducing their numbers gradually, and there is now not a single gang upon the mainland of the colony. The whole of the probation gangs are confined to Tasman's Peninsula and Maria Island. There are several bodies of men employed upon various public works, by which the

Home Government is relieved from the expense of superintendence, and from the cost of providing and maintaining the necessary buildings, and the colony is benefited, inasmuch as the work performed by these men could not be executed, by contract or other means, for more than three times the sum which it will now cost.

There are several stations, completed upon a most expensive plan, scattered about the colony, for which the Government have now no use. In some instances these may, perhaps, be partially appropriated to some public purpose; but when this cannot be done, the buildings must be sold, for the cost of keeping them in repair would be very great, and would answer no good purpose.

Military Buildings.

The public buildings of a military nature have been principally for the accommodation of the troops in Hobart Town, where a large sum is paid annually for the hire of barracks, which will cease on the removal of the 96th Regiment.

Legislation.

In consequence of the abeyance of the Legislative Council, the cause of which has already been reported to your Lordship, no Acts were passed during the year 1847.

Civil and Convict Establishment.

Under this head it may be sufficient to state that the establishments have been, for the most part, authorized by the Secretary of State, and that the changes occasionally made are reported as they occur.

Pensions.

The death of Mr. Mulgrave in April, 1847, has reduced the amount paid by 29*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*; but a small pension has been added of Daniel Murphy, a bailiff, who had acted in that capacity for 33 years. This has already been reported in a separate Despatch.

Population.

The return of the census, which was taken at the end of last year, shows that the population of the colony had increased from 57,471, which was the amount in 1843, to 67,918, an increase in five years of 18 per cent.

The increase of the free population has been 7842, while that of the convict population has been 3856.

The increase of the free population has not been owing to any extent to immigration. Indeed, since April, 1846, there has been an emigration from the colony to the extent of 10,012, all of whom must have been free, though a large proportion, amounting perhaps to half of the whole, have been originally convicts.

The convict population will, however, now rapidly diminish. The number of conditional pardons which will be issued annually for several years will amount to between 3000 and 4000; and although a large proportion of these will emigrate, yet a certain number will remain and be added to the free population, so that when the next census is taken in three or four years, the change in the proportion of the free and bond population will be very great.

The returns of the births and deaths would shew that the former exceeded the latter in more than a two-fold proportion.

The returns are compiled from a comparison of those sent by the registrar and those furnished by the clergy. The statement of the deaths, as given by each, agree pretty well, but the register of baptisms as given by the clergy are far more accurate than that of births by the registrar.

On the whole, I see no reason to doubt the general accuracy of the return.

The proportion of males to females is still very great, the excess however is slowly diminishing.

Ecclesiastical.

On the subject of the Ecclesiastical return it is not necessary to say much. I have already written fully to your Lordship as to the mode in which the funds are provided for the payment of the clergy of different denominations, and I need only say that, although the amount expended, when taken in connection with the number of the people, may seem to be large, yet that when compared with the wants of the community, originating in their peculiar position, and their character and habits, it is not nearly sufficient for their wants.

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I have already written to your Lordship very fully on the subject of education.

It will be seen that I have acted upon the instruction conveyed in Mr. Gladstone's Despatch, No. 55, so far as to afford aid to the schools in connection with the Churches of England and Rome, so that parents, who might object to the system of instruction in operation at the Government schools, might have some opportunity of obtaining instruction for their children according to the system approved by their own Church.

The result is embodied in the return now forwarded, and has been so far satisfactory, as that it has afforded some opportunities of instruction to upwards of 1000 children who would otherwise have had none. The question, however, of education is one of the utmost importance in this colony, as from the character of the population it would of course require every effort on the part of instructors to neutralize the effects of the evil example which the parents would in many cases set before their children. It is also essential that the parents should be induced by every means to send their children to school; at present it appears to be a matter of indifference with a large number whether their children are educated or not, and a population is growing up, of whom upwards of two-thirds are receiving no instruction at all.

Coin and Exchange.

There appears to have been a diminution in the amount of bullion in the colony during the past year, the return for 1846 being 357,554*l.*, and that for 1847, 310,089*l.* Large remittances have been made to England and to Sydney by the banks, which will account for the decrease.

When the amount of bullion, however, is compared with that of the notes in circulation, it would appear as if a quantity of capital were lying idle in the coffers of the banks; the deposits however are large, and it is necessary to keep a reserve in hand in order to meet any sudden call which might be made upon the banks by the withdrawal of their deposits.

Imports.

The imports from England have increased from 372,000*l.*, in 1846, to 517,786*l.*, in 1847, while the total imports have increased from 561,238*l.*, in 1846, to 724,593*l.*, in 1847.

The increase in British goods has been pretty general, but the most marked change has been in the comparative importation of cottons and linens, and woollen cloths. The increase in the latter has been very great indeed, while there has been a diminution in the importation of the former. I have no data to enable me to account for so remarkable and sudden a change.

There has been a diminution in the importation of beef and pork, and hams, to a large amount, which would lead to the inference that the colonists were turning their attention to the supply of the article themselves. In the same way the diminished amount of the imports of carriages, casks, deal, furniture and timber, would seem to show that in these articles an effort was being made by the people to avail themselves of the means at their disposal for the supply of their own wants.

There has been a large increase in the importation of sugar, from 23,433*l.* in 1846, to 51,615*l.* in 1847; a portion of this may have been shipped on speculation, but there is a great consumption in breweries, where it is used in place of malt, and I am afraid that a good deal is used in private distilleries.

Exports.

The exports have increased from 582,585*l.* in 1846, to 600,876*l.* in 1847. Of these 338,609*l.* have been sent to England, and the remainder principally to the colonies in this hemisphere. The increase has taken place principally in the two staples, oil and wool. There has been a diminution in the export of flour and grain, while the export of timber staves and bark have increased.

On reference to the three last years, 1845, 1846, and 1847, there appears to be a steady improvement in trade.

On reference to the return of the shipping the same observation may be made; although the number of ships to England has diminished by one, yet the tonnage has increased from 10,122 to 11,150, and the total tonnage has increased from 79,430 to 85,861.

Agriculture.

The quantity of land under cultivation in 1847, is less than in 1846 by 6339 acres, the decrease appears to have been principally in that laid down in wheat.

The low price obtained for the crop of 1846 is, in all probability, the reason of this. The same remark, however, which I made last year as to the slovenly system of agriculture, and the small average crop per acre, are still of course applicable; and as there does not appear to be any probability of the price rising above the average stated in the return, unless such attention is paid to the cultivation of the soil as to make it produce a sufficient crop to remunerate the farmer at that price, the probability is that less still will be cultivated.

I am fully of opinion, however, that with even a moderate amount of attention to the character of the soil, and to the proper mode of cultivation, the prices given are amply sufficient to remunerate the careful farmer, even looking to the very high rate of profit which he has a right to expect.

In many, indeed in most instances, the land is his own; it is burthened with no local assessments of any kind, no poor-rates, county or police-rates, no tithes, no rent, the quality in many instances excellent, the climate most congenial. Steady industry, well directed, is all that can be required. In some instances this is given, and the result then is, that the crops at the average price amply repay the farmer for his outlay.

The tendency, however, is generally to look to the depasturing of sheep as the most profitable occupation; there is no doubt, I imagine, that at present the return upon a given amount of capital expended in the purchase of stock, and the rental of land from the Government, would be larger than if the same amount were spent upon the purchase of land and its cultivation; but, by purchasing the land, especially at the present low price, a man has obtained a secure investment, the return from which is annually increasing. On the other hand, though his sheep keep increasing annually without much cost or trouble to himself, yet he must procure more land to pasture them, and by degrees the multiplication of sheep beyond the means which the colony can supply of feeding them, must lower their price to that which they will yield when boiled down; by degrees then, as land for pasture becomes difficult to find, men will be convinced of the necessity of raising food artificially for their sheep, the land will then come into cultivation, and will be able to maintain ten times the number which it now does without difficulty.

The return of the amount of produce has been drawn out in an unsatisfactory manner, but in point of fact the period at which the account of produce is taken is unfavourable, as the amount of crop can only be taken as an estimate of the quantity in the ground; in many, indeed in most, instances but little of the crop having been housed and none thrashed out.

In the same way as regards the sheep, that is, as regards the numbers in the different districts, there appears a strange discrepancy in the years 1846 and 1847. There is upon the whole a very large increase, but in many districts the number of sheep appears to have diminished; in point of fact, about the time when the numbers are taken, the sheep are, in many instances, moving from the low country to the summer feeding grounds, an alteration of a week or so may make all the difference as to the returns of the relative amount in the different districts.

There appears to be an increase in the number of horses, cattle, and sheep; and though I do not imagine that great confidence can be placed in the absolute accuracy of the returns, yet I am inclined to believe, from other sources of information, that in the fact of the increase they are correct.

Manufactures.

Attention has only just begun to be paid to the manufacture of articles required in the country.

Within the last two years ship building has been taken up, especially at Hobart Town, and on the banks of the Huon. Vessels of every description, from the small river craft of 10 to 20 tons, to vessels for the English trade, of 400 tons and upwards, are constantly in progress. The timber is admirably adapted for such purposes, and the models of the vessels which have been already launched are most creditable to their constructors. The price at which they are built is low, not exceeding 8*l.* per ton.

Casks again are very much wanted for oil, flour, and other exports. Hitherto

Laws.

Twenty ordinances have been passed during the year, of which the most important are:—

No. 13. "An Ordinance to provide further Remedies against Trespasses by "Live Stock, and to promote the Construction of Fences;" which had been urgently required to check the practice of allowing stock to roam without a keeper, and to prevent the deterioration of the breed of horses and cattle.

No. 15. "An Ordinance to diminish the Dangers resulting from Bush "Fires;" which is intended to avert the great evils which have resulted from the country being set on fire by the natives and settlers.

No. 19. "An Ordinance to repeal the existing laws respecting the Construction and Management of Roads, and to establish a Central Board of "Works."

The management of the internal communications of the colony was formerly committed to a general road trust.

This system, however, proved inefficient; it having been found extremely difficult to procure a regular and punctual attendance of the members at the periodical and special meetings. A very serious evil also resulted from this partial attendance, that when individuals had any special object to carry by a majority of the votes of the meeting, the end was easily obtained by their engaging the attendance of parties favourable to their views.

The present ordinance was accordingly introduced, which establishes a permanent Central Board of Works, half officers of the Government, and half private individuals resident in Perth and its vicinity, to whom the duties of the general road trust are transferred; and who are also to have the charge of such other public works as may be committed to their management. All applications for the construction and repair of roads and other works are to be sent in to this Board, who, after due consideration, are to submit for the approval of the Governor in executive council such works as they recommend, as well as the distribution of the fund appropriated for this service. It is provided also that Local Boards are to be formed in the different districts, whose duty it will be to convey to the Central Board such information and suggestions as may be required, and to superintend the execution of whatever works may be directed to be carried on in their district. The remaining provisions have been adopted, with little amendment, from the Road Trust Act.

It is confidently expected that the operations of a Board thus constituted will be so effective, and carried on with such impartiality, as, compared with the system now superseded, will give very general satisfaction.

No. 20. "An Ordinance to establish a Toll to be levied on Sandal Wood to "be applied to the Construction of Roads and Lines of Communication."

The great damage caused by the floods of last winter to the public roads, added to the necessity that had long been manifest for rendering the roads through the sandy districts near the coast more fitted for the passage of loaded teams, made it a matter of urgent importance for the Government to provide additional means for this item of expenditure; and it having been ascertained that the sandal wood of the colony brought good and remunerating prices at Singapore and China, and the colonists having very generally commenced cutting and preparing it for embarkation, a toll on this article appeared the easiest and least burthensome mode of creating the additional funds required. And this article has so maintained its price, and the demand continues so steady, that the settlers do not receive less since the imposition of the toll, which falls upon the exporter, and which the latter is well enabled to bear by the profits of the trade.

Ecclesiastical Return.

Arrangements have been made to provide a clergyman for Albany, King George's Sound, which will be carried out in the course of the year, by the transfer of one of the colonial chaplains to that district; as the duty of the Upper Swan, which he vacates, can be performed by the chaplain of the adjoining district.

Education.

From the very inefficient state of the Government school at Perth. I appointed during the past year a General Board of Education; and in conformity with

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their suggestions the Government schools, both male and female, were remodelled, new teachers being appointed, and they have been brought into a very effective condition under the able superintendence of the General Committee, aided by the zealous assistance of the Committee of Visitors, especially of the ladies; and there is now consequently a very considerable increase in the number of scholars of both sexes.

The system adopted in the Government school, as set forth in the Report of the General Committee, forwarded in my Despatch No. 13, of January 25th, has met with the approval of the different religious denominations in the colony, the Wesleyan Methodists giving up their own schools, and sending their children to those of the Government.

Imports and Exports.

	£.	s.	d.
Imports during 1846 were . . .	25,959	4	4
In 1847	25,463	0	0
Decrease in 1847	£ 496	4	4
<hr/>			
	£.	s.	d.
Exports in 1846 amounted to . . .	20,222	15	4
In 1847	24,535	0	0
Excess in 1847	£ 4,312	4	8

About two-thirds of the wool of this season remains in the colony for want of freight; had it been shipped the exports would have exceeded the imports.

The principal increase under the head of Exports has arisen from the timber of the colony. The trade which has sprung up in sandal wood has been considerable. In 1846 thirty-two tons only were exported. The amount has risen in 1847 to 370½ tons; and the quantity would have been much larger had the colonists possessed the means of conveying the wood which had been felled and prepared for shipment in the country districts to the port. Several vessels have consequently left in ballast from want of cargoes.

The shipment of timber which was sent from this country in the last year to Her Majesty's Dockyard at Deptford having been highly approved of, on inspection there, as admirably adapted for naval purposes, a prospect of a lucrative trade for the supply of Her Majesty's Navy is thus held out to the colonists.

Samples of this wood, the jarrah or mahogany of the colonists, which is also found so valuable for domestic purposes on account of its indestructibility by the white ant, having been sent to India, seem to have been much approved by the engineers appointed to form the railroad from Calcutta to Delhi. A vessel of the East India Company has since been sent for a cargo of this timber, and 90 tons have been shipped by her at Bunbury. The officers on board reported that there is every probability that a large number of vessels will be sent for cargoes in the course of the year, and that Coolies will also be sent to supply labour to prepare it for shipment.

An effort is now making to establish a company in Calcutta for carrying on a trade in this timber, by a capitalist who lately left this colony for that purpose; to whom I have conceded the privilege of cutting timber at the present rate of license for 10 years, provided the Company commence operations within 18 months, a portion of the shares of the Company being reserved for the settlers. One part of the proposed plan is the introduction of Coolies from India, by which the expense of preparing the timber for shipment will be much lessened. The value of this timber, so well known to the settlers for many years, appears at last about to attract attention abroad, and will no doubt eventually prove of great service in promoting the progress of this colony. Nothing could tend more to this than the opening up of a regular communication with India. The uncertainty of being able to return within a given time has long prevented this colony from being made an invalid station for India. The introduction of Coolie labour has also long been a desideratum here,

though they prove much inferior in point of physical strength and intelligence to the Chinese introduced from Singapore during the past year.

Agriculture.

There appears from the returns a considerable decrease in the number of acres of wheat and barley grown, amounting to upwards of 1000 acres. But this does not arise from a corresponding decrease in cultivation, nearly the whole of this quantity was sown with grain; but owing to the damage occasioned by the extraordinary floods of last year, and the great demand for forage for the teams employed in conveying sandal wood to the coast, the crops were cut down for hay. An increase thus appears under the head of Artificial Pasture of 1266 acres.

Stock.

The increase in live stock amounts to 12,552 head; but the returns in this particular item are not much to be depended upon, as several individuals possessing considerable flocks and herds have refused to give returns, or made such as are well known to be incorrect.

Mines and Fisheries.

The quantity of oil taken in the whale fisheries exceeds that of last season; but being principally black oil, the value of the produce falls short upwards of 1100%.

Mines.

Cinnabar has been found in masses on the surface on the lands of private individuals, and a quantity of the ore has been sent home to ascertain its value.

No further discoveries of metalliferous ores of any value have as yet been made within the colony.

In my report of last year I stated that an expedition had been dispatched to examine the coal bed found on the banks of the Irwin. Dr. Von Sommer, the geologist employed by the Government for this purpose, after visiting that locality, traced the coal measures to the Moore River, within 75 miles of Perth, and from their bearing, and the corresponding formation of the country, he considers it probable the coal-field is continued all along from Cape Riche 70 miles eastward of King George's Sound to Shark's Bay 450 miles north of the Swan, with a continuous girdle of good land; and also that, from analogous instances in other parts, where, nearly in equal parallels with two granite formations, the same transitions of secondary rocks occur, there may be expected eastward of the granite table-land along the coast of this colony, the same metalliferous slates and clays which abound at Spencer's Gulf westward of the granite alps of New South Wales.

On the report of the geologist of the strong probability of the existence of coal on the banks of the Swan, from the indications of the strata, I have determined on boring for it at Perth as soon as an apparatus shall have been prepared for the purpose.

I took the opportunity of the colonial schooner proceeding in the course of the year to King George's Sound, to send thither Dr. Von Sommer to report on the geological features of that district, and of that in the vicinity of Cape Riche, where coal was reported to have been found. From the short stay of the vessel at that station, and the horses employed in the exploration having knocked up, the country was only partially examined, and no coal was then discovered. I have subsequently, however, deemed it advisable to send the geologist in the same direction on an overland expedition, accompanied by Mr. Bland, the Protector of Aborigines, to complete the examination of this district, especially the shores of Doubtful Island Bay to the eastward of Cape Riche, where coal is said to crop out.

On his return I have instructed Dr. Von Sommer to diverge from the Williams' district to the coast, to examine the country lying between Capes Naturaliste and Leeuwin, where metalliferous ores have been found at a very early period of the colony.

Land Sales.

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The amount of cash paid for Crown land sold during the past financial year amounts to 77*l.* 11*s.* There is also a sum of 100*l.* arising from the same source in the preceding year unexpended. The colony is indebted to the imperial treasury 1000*l.* for advances on account of the introduction of labour, and the above sums are properly applicable to the reduction of this debt. For the present, however, I would recommend that some further time should be allowed to the colony for the payment of the debt owing to the treasury. The want of labour hitherto experienced will this year be pretty well supplied by the recent arrival of 51 youths from the Parkhurst establishment, and by the arrangements which some of the settlers have made for procuring shepherds from home and the neighbouring colonies, as well as by the importation of Chinese, 20 of whom have been already introduced by the colonial schooner, and 60 more are expected to arrive by her in the course of the next month, all of whom are unaccompanied by females.

The present disproportion between the sexes will consequently be further increased by these arrivals, and as female servants are also much required, it is desirable that the small disposable sum above referred to should be expended in sending some out to this colony.

The shepherds referred to above, as having been sent for by private individuals, are to be sent hither in the "*Merope*," a colonial vessel which sailed for London in the month of February last, and which presents a good opportunity of forwarding on her return such females as may have been selected for this colony, should it be found practicable to afford any relief for this most urgent necessity. On this very important subject I shall beg further to address your Lordship by this mail in a separate despatch.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) F. C. IRWIN.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

SOUTH
AUSTRALIA.

(No. 54.)

No. 31.

No. 31.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor ROBE to Earl GREY.

Adelaide, South Australia,
June 15, 1848.

(Received November 1, 1848.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this province for the year 1847. This document has been longer in course of preparation than I could have wished, but the delay has not been altogether without advantage, as I am enabled to add to the information therein contained, a series of tables in a separate compilation, illustrative of the progress of this colony, during the last four years, and of its general condition during a more extended period. These will, I trust, afford your Lordship very full information in a concise form, upon the advances making by the industry of the colonists; and in respect to the capabilities of this remote portion of the empire, to support and enrich those emigrating to it.

The first table in the Blue Book relates to the schedules of taxes, duties, fees, and other sources of revenue.

These have undergone very little change in 1847. The tariff of import duties underwent amendment in 1846, and although there are in it some anomalies, and room for further amendment, yet it has fully realized the expectations entertained of it, in regard of its productiveness of revenue, and to the facilities of collection over the former system of *ad valorem* duties.

The rates of postage of letters underwent some trifling alterations and reductions in 1847, but their produce increased considerably.

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The "city rates" or assessments on houses in Adelaide were raised from sixpence to one shilling in the pound in 1847, but more than double the amount of the whole of such rates, has been expended upon the streets, under votes of the Legislative Council.

Fees on cattle impounded for trespass were established in 1847, under an ordinance of the Legislature, and in the same year fees were fixed for services rendered by the coroners, in lieu of salary.

The abstract of net revenue and expenditure for 1847 shows increase of revenue over the produce of 1846, in almost every item. It may facilitate the forming a correct judgment upon the productiveness of the several principal sources of revenue, if I briefly enumerate the rates of increase on the year.

Duties of Customs on imports :—

On spirits an increase of	. . . . .	23 per cent.
On tobacco	. . . . .	24 "
On wines	. . . . .	98 "
On other goods	. . . . .	35 "
On other Customs' receipts	. . . . .	67 "
On the general receipts of Customs	. . . . .	29 "

The other sources of revenue show corresponding increase in 1847 :—

Postages	. . . . .	36 per cent.
Fees of offices	. . . . .	38 "
Of which the registry fees	. . . . .	44 "
Fines	. . . . .	36 "
Licenses	. . . . .	27 "
Auction duty	. . . . .	166 "
And on the gross revenue	. . . . .	39 "

The auction duty has increased very largely, which is attributable in great measure to the admission of goods to free warehousing, under the Ordinance No. 16, of 1846.

I do not think that such a duty is quite consistent with the freedom of a port as it operates as an additional charge on goods imported by transient traders calling at the port to try the market, and whose advent it is desirable to encourage for the sake of our exportable produce. The auction duty yielded, in 1847, 1458*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.*, but I feel very much disposed to relinquish it altogether if the Legislative Council, on a reconsideration of the Customs tariff, will go with me in such an amendment as will render it more equable, as I think that the increased facilities to commerce thus afforded will fully compensate in another way for the loss of revenue by the abolition of the auction duty.

The increase on the produce of the assessment on stock has been omitted in the foregoing statement of ratios, because the receipts of 1847 include a large portion of the assessment due for, but not paid in 1846, whereby they appear greater than in reality they should do. The assessments should show an increase of about 22 per cent., such being the rates of the natural increase of the flocks as ascertained by the quantities of wool exported.

In the public expenditure the increase in 1847 over 1846 has been—

On salaries	. . . . .	20 per cent.
Contingent and miscellaneous expenses	. . . . .	116 "

These ratios may be further divided as follows :—

On salaries of civil officers	. . . . .	22 per cent.
On the civil contingencies	. . . . .	68 "
On judicial salaries	. . . . .	13 "
On judicial contingencies	. . . . .	182 "
The ecclesiastical establishment	. . . . .	Nil.
Ecclesiastical contingencies	. . . . .	143 "
Public works and improvements	. . . . .	301 "
Miscellaneous expenses	. . . . .	19 "
On the total expenditure of the year	. . . . .	58 .

The total revenue of the year, exclusive of the arrears brought forward from 1846, has been 67,027*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.*, and the total expenditure, exclusive of repayments to the land fund of debts of former years, has been 58,979*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.* Including those repayments, the expenditure was 66,799*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.*, being 228*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*, within the actual revenue of the year, whilst all the debt has been paid off.

This Government contributed nothing in 1847 towards the military defence of the province. One Company of the line is stationed here, the expense of which is defrayed by Great Britain, the commissariat officer in charge of the military chest, receiving from time to time from the local Government such sums as may be required for the military service, by way of advance, to be repaid from the Imperial Treasury in England for the service of emigration to South Australia.

The militia of the province is at present merely a nominal force, without organization under legislative enactment. I have already caused a Militia Bill to be prepared, which it is my purpose to submit for the consideration of the Legislative Council at an early date.

The return of Public Works, completed or in progress is rather longer than has heretofore appeared in the Blue Book. It would have been more extensive had labour been more abundant. The greater part of the expense of these works has been defrayed under special votes of the legislative. Of these sanctioned by myself, the expense has for the most part, fallen under a general vote for works unforeseen at the time that the estimates were under consideration. The roads, bridges, and streets have engrossed the principal portion of this expenditure.

All changes in the "Civil Establishment," have been reported to your Lordship as they occurred, or in the Quarterly Returns regularly transmitted where increase of salaries occurs, it has been under votes of the Legislature in the appropriation ordinances of 1846 approved by your Lordship.

The "population" of the colony appears to have increased about 20 per cent. during the year 1847, of which increase, one tenth is stated to be due to the excess of births over deaths, and the remainder to the excess of immigration over emigration; of the increase from the latter source, two-thirds are due to the Government immigration, at the public cost, and one-third at the cost of the individuals. The return shows a large increase in the numbers of the Aboriginal natives; this, however, is merely due to improved means of ascertaining these numbers. It is even yet a very imperfect census.

The ecclesiastical return shows an improvement over the preceding year. No mention is made in it of the Lord Bishop of Adelaide, or of the clergy brought out by his Lordship, as they only arrived at the very close of the year.

The ecclesiastical return shows an increase in 1847 of 69 per cent. of children attending Sunday-schools, and of 32 per cent. of day scholars. These results may be attributed partly to the Government grants in aid of religion and education, partly to increased exertions of those advocating the voluntary principle, caused by the agitation of the question of state support, and partly to the increase of the population.

The number of children attending schools is still very small, compared with the population, the inducements to earn wages by the labour of children being such as to lead many parents to forego for them the advantages of education, the value of which they do not fully appreciate.

The amount of coin in circulation is estimated at 40,000*l.*

The return of imports and exports show the increase of the value of imports to have been 24 per cent. in 1847. This is not, however, a very satisfactory table from which to draw comparison between the imports and exports of this or more consecutive years, because December and January are the months of the greatest commercial activity at Port Adelaide, and fair or foul winds may accelerate or retard the arrival or departure of ships, and so cause their cargoes to fall within the returns of one or the other year; and because an early or a late season will bring the crops of grain and wool to market in December or in January, as the case may be. Much greater accuracy of result would be obtained if these as well as the agricultural returns were made for the financial year ending on the 31st March.

By the return of agriculture it appears that the number of acres in crop have increased about 9 per cent, and those enclosed about 6 per cent., during the year, chiefly in barley and oats. The vineyards have also extended considerably, and I have very little doubt that this province will one day become a wine exporting country.

The olive and mulberry are also successfully cultivated, though not yet in sufficient quantity to appear separately in the statistical returns.

The stock which appears in the table, is only that which is depastured on the waste lands of the Crown. It embraces nearly all the sheep of the colony, but not all the horses and horned cattle, as many of these are home fed, or depastured on private lands. At present there are no effectual means of arriving at a correct knowledge of the number of horses and horned cattle so fed.

There have been little or no additions to the mines in 1847, the number on the list being the same as in the Blue Book of 1846. The amount of available labour in the province being insufficient for the profitable working of more than a few of those already opened. Metallic ores continue to be discovered in new localities, but the richer lodes alone engross the principal part of the mining labour. One shipment of emery took place in 1847, and cobalt is said to have been recently discovered.

The quantity of Crown Lands sold in 1847 was considerably less than during the preceding year; owing chiefly to the discontinuance of the sale of special surveys of 20,000 acres, and because I considered it prudent to limit the quantity of land offered for sale by auction, so as not to withdraw too much capital from circulation, until the funds already collected by the sales of land, had been expended on emigration. Most of the lands sold in 1847 have been put up to auction on special applications from individual colonists.

The enclosure wall of the gaol of Adelaide, has been completed, whereby the prison is now secure, but the divisional walls for the better classification of prisoners, have not been commenced, owing to the press of other work. I am in hopes, however, that this necessary work will be accomplished in the course of the current year.

I now beg to direct your Lordship's attention to the printed statistical returns already mentioned.

These tables embrace the statistics of this province for four years, from 1844 to 1847, and the concluding table affords a general review from 1840 to 1847. To have extended the whole of the tables over eight years, would have much increased their bulk, and the labour of collecting the necessary information, the material for such compilation being less perfect in former years.

The year 1844 may also be considered as the first in which the effect of the Acts of Parliament for the better government of South Australia, and for regulating the sales of crown lands, began to be felt in the colony, they having come into operation in 1843. The effect of the discovery of metallic ores upon the wealth of the colony, dates also from 1844, though its effect upon immigration did not appear until 1846.

I do not propose to enter into detailed examination of these tables, as I trust they will speak for themselves, but merely to make a few general remarks upon them.

The population (table 1) has increased about 64 per cent. in the four years, the immigration at private cost rather exceeding that at the expense of the Land Fund. By table 4, it appears that the balance of immigration from, and emigration to the other Australian colonies, is in favour of South Australia.

The imports and exports (table 5) show a vast increase in the four years, equivalent to 257 per cent. on imports, and 268 per cent. on exports.

As the exports are affected by imports re-exported, and by causes already explained, in drawing comparison between the years 1846 and 1847, the table 6 has been prepared to show the exports of the produce of the colony during the four financial years.

From this return it will be seen, that notwithstanding the great increase of population, the quantity of wheat and flour exported, maintains itself, whilst its price has increased 50 fold, to cover the increased price of wages. Copper ore has become the principal staple export, in value from 10,000*l.* to 200,000*l.* increase in the four years. Wool shows a steady increase in quantity.

Tables 7 and 8 are instructive, the former showing that in the four years the revenue has increased 142 per cent., whilst the expenditure has only augmented 100 per cent. Public works and improvements forming a large item in such increase. The latter showing the somewhat rapid progress of bringing the ordinary expenditure within the revenue; the excess of revenue in the latter years having been applied in the repayment of debts formerly contracted.

This process is, perhaps, better shown in the return No. 29, the last of the series, wherein the amount of Government expenditure and revenue for the last eight years is given.

This return as well as others preceding it, afford me the satisfactory reflection, that I shall be able to hand over the government to my successor without a debt, and with a sufficient revenue, exclusive of the land fund, to meet the current and growing requirements of his administration.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

FRED. H. ROBE,
Lieut.-Governor.

Enclosure in No. 31.

Encl. in No. 31.

STATISTICS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

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No. 1.

RETURN of the Population of South Australia, for the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847, inclusive.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Aborigines in Settled Districts. (Estimated at)
1844	10,733	8,266	18,999	1,600
1845	12,388	9,371	21,759	1,600
1846	14,711	11,182	25,893	1,600
1847	17,531	13,622	31,153	3,680

NOTE.—The last census was taken in March, 1846, at which date the population amounted to 12,740 males, 9650 females; making a total of 22,390.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

ANALYSIS of the Increase of Population since the commencement of the Year 1845.

The Population of the Province of South Australia on the 1st January, 1845, amounted to				18,999
	Immigrants whose Passage was defrayed from the Land Fund.	Excess of Immigrants arriving at their own Cost, over Emigrants from the Province.	Excess of Births over Deaths registered.	Totals.
During the year 1845 the following increase took place.	172	2,118	470	2,760
Ditto 1846 ditto . . .	1,469	2,088	577	4,134
Ditto 1847 ditto . . .	3,257	1,504	499	5,260
Totals . . .	4,898	5,710	1,546	12,154
Population on the 1st January, 1848				31,153

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April 2, 1848.

No. 2.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of the Number of Births, Marriages, and Deaths registered in the Province of South Australia, during the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

BIRTHS.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Totals.
1844	354	317	671
1845	380	328	708
1846	483	454	937
1847	544	450	994

MARRIAGES.

Solemnized.		1844	1845	1846	1847
In the Church of England		57	77	139	218
In the Church of Scotland		21	29	21	20
In the Roman Catholic Chapel		10	10	17	45
In the German Lutheran Church		6	2	17	22
In the Congregational Chapel		11	9	13	23
In the Methodist Chapel		2	11	10	7
In the Primitive Methodist Chapel . . . . .		..	..	2	2
In the Office of the Deputy Registrar, Adelaide .		1	..	..	..
In the ditto ditto Port Lincoln		..	3	..	..
By Missionaries . . . . .		..	..	..	9
Of the Jewish Religion . . . . .		..	..	..	1
		110	141	220	346

DEATHS.

Year.	7 Years and under.	From								Males.	Females.	Totals.
		7 to 14	14 to 21	21 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50	50 to 60	60 to 70	70 to 83			
1844	81	4	4	17	20	6	5	2	1	75	63	140
1845	147	8	6	19	28	22	3	3	2	143	95	238
1846	244	15	6	19	31	26	12	5	2	208	152	360
1847	317	20	16	39	53	32	12	4	2	301	194	495

NOTE.—This Return merely shows the number of Births, Marriages, and Deaths actually registered in the Province; there are, at present, no satisfactory data for estimating the number of those unregistered.

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April 2, 1848.

STATE OF HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

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No. 3.

RETURN of Vessels Inwards and Outwards, and of Immigration and Emigration at Port Adelaide, during the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

INWARDS AND IMMIGRATION.

	1844.						1845.					
	No. of Ships.	Tons.	Men.	Passengers.			No. of Ships.	Tons.	Men.	Passengers.		
				Adults.		Children				Adults.		Children
				M.	F.					M.	F.	
Great Britain . .	8	2,546	645	59	32	29	12	3,976	196	131	105	63
British Colonies. .	60	6,245		470	160	179	97	8,441	752	1,057	342	389
Foreign States . .	2	739		51	41	93	5	1,378	64	84	62	103
Totals . . .	70	9,530	645	580	233	301	114	13,795	1,012	1,272	509	555

	1846.						1847.					
	No. of Ships.	Tons.	Men.	Passengers.			No. of Ships.	Tons.	Men.	Passengers.		
				Adults.		Children				Adults.		Children
				M.	F.					M.	F.	
Great Britain . .	20	8,199	397	653	545	537	28	13,712	678	1,346	1,187	1,193
British Colonies. .	111	14,320	1,044	1,140	407	488	115	15,421	1,166	693	251	259
Foreign States . .	11	2,959	209	276	162	250	7	2,628	101	279	171	267
Totals . . .	142	25,478	1,650	2,069	1,114	1,275	150	31,761	1,945	2,318	1,609	1,719

OUTWARDS AND EMIGRATION.

	1844.						1845.					
	7	2,279	587	36	17	19	7	2,215	107	29	16	11
Great Britain . .	59	6,196		159	48	53	93	8,613	691	301	56	23
British Colonies. .	2	377		2	2	..	11	1,935	186	10	2	1
Foreign States . .												
Totals . . .	68	8,852	587	197	67	72	111	12,763	984	339	74	35

	1846.						1847.					
	20	6,671	309	61	29	24	16	5,572	245	45	24	30
Great Britain . .	106	15,124	1,031	520	122	103	125	22,156	1,397	522	156	102
British Colonies. .	10	2,236	208	4	..	..	10	3,152	153	5	1	..
Foreign States . .												
Totals . . .	136	24,031	1,548	585	151	127	151	30,880	1,795	572	181	132

Compiled from authentic official records.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April 3, 1848.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

No. 4.

RETURN of Immigration and Emigration at Port Adelaide during the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

	Immigration from.				Emigration to.			
	1844	1845	1846	1847	1844	1845	1846	1847
Great Britain—								
Bristol . . . . .	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Leith	14	..	4	24	..	..	..	..
Liverpool	5	4	1	15	..	8	5	..
London	101	295	1,730	3,686	72	48	86	32
Swansea . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	23	67
British Colonies—								
Cape of Good Hope . .	8	2	29	6	9	2	1	24
Calcutta . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Guernsey . . . . .	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..
Hong-kong . . . . .	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..
Mauritius	1	8	7	6	..	9	7	11
Singapore	2	22	10	55	..	2	2	4
New South Wales—								
Melbourne	142	125	124	133	16	53	111	141
Portland	38	73	52	73	14	11	63	129
Sydney	205	252	511	442	95	99	233	222

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SOUTH
AUSTRALIA.

Return of Immigration and Emigration at Port Adelaide—*continued.*

	Immigration from.				Emigration to.			
	1844	1845	1846	1847	1844	1845	1846	1847
Van Diemen's Land—								
Circular Head . . .	20	14	7	2	..	..	..	..
Hobart Town . . .	169	527	468	231	60	70	112	104
Launceston . . .	160	499	697	184	52	105	193	108
Western Australia . . .	53	113	126	67	25	18	23	35
New Zealand . . .	13	153	3	..	..	8	..	..
Foreign States—								
Bahia . . .	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Batavia . . .	..	..	8	..	..	2	2	..
Boston . . .	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bourbon . . .	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Bremen . . .	185	244	679	716	..	..	..	..
Canton . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cape de Verds . . .	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chusan . . .	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	3
Guam . . .	..	..	..	..	2	5	1	1
Manila . . .	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Sandwich Islands . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Seychelles . . .	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
South Seas (whaling voy- age) . . .	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	1
Timor . . .	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
Totals . . .	1,114 347	2,336 445	4,458 863	5,646 885	347	445	863	885
Excess of Immigration .	767	1,891	3,595	4,761				

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April 2, 1848.

No. 5.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of the Official Value of Imports into and Exports from South Australia, during the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

IMPORTS.												
From	1844			1845			1846			1847		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Great Britain . . .	63,635	10	11	103,797	8	6	174,689	0	1	235,374	6	0
British Colonies . . .	54,693	14	6	75,848	9	11	141,661	19	6	166,475	13	6
Foreign States . . .	586	1	6	5,174	0	0	13,748	13	2	8,975	10	0
Totals . . .	118,915	6	11	184,819	18	5	330,099	12	9	410,825	9	6
Imports re-exported .	13,004	0	10	16,658	18	7	25,778	5	0	75,233	0	2
Imports consumed in the Colony . . .	105,911	6	1	168,160	19	10	304,321	7	9	335,592	9	4

EXPORTS.												
To	1844			1845			1846			1847		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Great Britain* . . .	60,785	8	6	97,600	0	6	218,095	10	0	166,080	2	0
British Colonies . . .	32,451	15	0	41,075	9	6	92,340	7	6	170,360	17	8
Foreign States . . .	2,035	11	0	9,783	14	7	2,402	5	0	13,907	12	6
Totals . . .	95,272	14	6	148,459	4	7	312,838	2	6	350,348	12	2
Imports re-exported .	13,004	0	10	16,658	18	7	25,778	5	0	75,233	0	2
Total Exports the Pro- duce of the Colony .	82,268	13	8	131,800	6	0	287,059	17	6	275,115	12	0

* As it frequently occurs that the ships for Great Britain do not leave Port Adelaide until the commencement of the year succeeding that with the produce of which they are loaded, a Return like the present (to the 31st December in each year), in which the value of the produce of one season is blended in uncertain proportions with that of another, is of little use for the purpose of contrasting the value of the produce of successive years. The Return on the next page, however, being made up to the 5th of April in each year, will more accurately show the progressive increase in the quality and value of all the articles of Colonial Exports.

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of Exports, the Produce of South Australia, during the Years ending the 4th April, 1845, 1846, 1847, and 1848.

Article.	Year ending 4th April, 1845.			Year ending 4th April, 1846.					
	Quantity.	Value.		Quantity.	Value.				
		£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.	
Alkali					5c.	1	0	0	
Animals living—Cattle	32	120	0	0	36	200	0	0	
Goats									
Horses					1	20	0	0	
Sheep	150	85	0	0	1,000	510	0	0	
Bacon and hams	92c. 3q.	259	12	0	114c. 2q. 4 lbs.	274	5	0	
Bark	549t. 15c.	1,812	0	0	466t. 14c.	2,380	0	0	
Beef and pork					23c.	36	0	0	
Beer					27 galls.	4	10	0	
Bones					2 tons	5	0	0	
Boots and shoes					1 case	5	0	0	
Bread and biscuit	6t. 4c.	88	0	0	60t. 17c. 3q. 4 lbs	956	5	0	
Butter	21t. 14c. 1q.	1,089	0	8	291c. 0q. 3 lbs.	1,344	10	0	
Cheese	5t. 14c. 1q.	313	15	6	250c. 2q. 4 lbs.	685	4	0	
Corn—Barley	46½qrs.	61	3	0	313½qrs.	368	0	0	
Bran	341½qrs.	191	0	0	877½qrs.	341	14	0	
Maize									
Malt					17½qrs.	31	0	0	
Oats					192½qrs.	197	0	0	
Pease					4c.	4	0	0	
Pollard					7 tons	50	0	0	
Wheat	10,216½qrs.	11,673	16	6	12,040½qrs.	16,568	14	6	
Flour	798t. 10c. 2q.	7,844	7	0	1,133t. 13c. 3q.	12,409	0	0	
Eggs			9	2	6	50 dozen	1	10	0
Feathers					30lbs.	2	0	0	
Fish						1	0	0	
Fruit					4 ton (melons)	14	0	0	
Galls	3c.	7	10	0					
Garlick		5	0	0					
Gum	124t. 18c. 2q.	2,557	15	0	321t. 11c. 3q.	6,760	0	0	
Guano		0	10	0					
Hay		30	0	0	11t. 12c.	50	0	0	
Hides and skins		101	18	0		74	0	0	
Hoofs and bones					1½ tons	7	0	0	
Horns	1,240	6	0	0	1,531	7	0	0	
Jam						3	0	0	
Lard	8c.	20	5	0	12c. 1q. 12 lbs.	43	0	0	
Lead, pig									
Leather	1t. 15c.	264	0	0	2 cwt.	10	10	0	
Oil, black	114½ tuns.	2,635	10	0	105½ tuns	2,205	0	0	
sperm	1 tun	55	0	0					
Onions	74 bushels	17	6	0	6 cwt.	5	0	0	
Ore—Copper	664½t.	10,350	15	6	2,691t. 7c. 1q. 19 lbs.	58,395	0	0	
Emery									
Lead	273t. 16c.	3,133	8	0	188t. 19c. 3q.	1,919	0	0	
Plants and seeds		22	0	0		9	0	0	
Potatoes					29t. 5c.	167	0	0	
Reaping machine		63	10	0		101	0	0	
Salt	86½t.	285	10	0	144t. 10c.	502	0	0	
Slate and stone		10	0	0		97	0	0	
Soap					1 cwt.	1	5	0	
Specimens of Natural History		65	0	0		149	0	0	
Tallow									
Timber		6	0	0		15	0	0	
Tongues					2q. 24 lbs.	2	0	0	
Whalebone	124c. 3q.	608	0	0	121c. 2q. 22lbs.	699	0	0	
Wheels						15	0	0	
Wine	28 galls.	18	4	0					
Wood—Boat knees					1,164	29	0	0	
Paling		10	0	0	1,200	8	0	0	
Plank					9 loads	15	0	0	
Wool	1,078,559 lbs.	60,162	1	0	1,473,186 lbs.	82,972	7	0	
Totals		103,981	19	8		190,669	14	6	

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250 REPORTS EXHIBITING THE PAST AND PRESENT

SOUTH
AUSTRALIA.

Comparative Return of Exports, the Produce of South Australia, during the Years ending the 4th April, 1845, 1846, 1847, and 1848.

Article.	Year ending 4th April, 1847.			Year ending 4th April, 1848.				
	Quantity.	Value.			Quantity.	Value.		
		£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Alkali . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Animals, living—Cattle	22	135	0	0	.	.	.	.
Goats . . . . .	.	.	.	.	104.	10	0	0
Horses . . . . .	.	.	.	.	1	50	0	0
Sheep	215	175	0	0	450	400	0	0
Bacon and hams	18c. 1q. 21 lbs.	54	0	0	17c. 1q. 12 lbs.	58	0	0
Bark	24t. 15c.	99	0	0	.	.	.	.
Beef and pork	4 barrels	20	0	0	130c.	133	0	0
Beer . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bones	2t. 5c.	5	0	0	4 tons	10	0	0
Boots and shoes . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bread and biscuit	48t. 12c.	728	10	0	31 tons	326	0	0
Butter	220c. 5 lbs.	1,001	10	0	12c.	70	0	0
Cheese	30c. 1q. 17 lbs.	96	3	0	50c. 2q.	136	0	0
Corn—Barley	425qrs.	615	0	0	309qrs.	615	0	0
Bran	855½qrs.	469	0	0	2,016qrs.	1,146	1	0
Maize . . . . .	.	.	.	.	6 bushels	2	0	0
Malt . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Oats	38qrs.	45	0	0	24qrs.	30	0	0
Pease . . . . .	.	.	.	.	5½qrs.	16	0	0
Pollard	10 tons	50	0	0	11 tons	78	0	0
Wheat	10,119½qrs.	18,212	19	0	10,005½qrs.	19,095	0	0
Flour	1,364t. 19c. 1q.	15,617	0	0	1,003t. 10c.	11,905	10	0
Eggs . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Feathers . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Fish . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Fruit . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Galls . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	5	0	0
Garlick . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Gum	26t. 15c. 3q. 3 lbs.	1,328	10	0	40t. 9c.	831	0	0
Guano . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Hay	60t. 3c.	266	0	0	2t. 11c.	15	0	0
Hides and skins . . . . .	.	115	10	0	.	382	0	0
Hoofs and bones . . . . .	.	.	.	.	1 ton	4	0	0
Horns . . . . .	.	.	.	.	4,224	26	0	0
Jam . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Lard . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Lead, pig	17c.	20	0	0	10t. 9c. 24 lbs.	203	0	0
Leather	2c. 2q. 17 lbs.	12	0	0	121c. 2q.	528	0	0
Oil, black	9 tuns	1,760	0	0	20 tuns.	360	0	0
,, sperm . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Onions	3c.	3	0	0	.	.	.	.
Ore—Copper	6,921t. 12c. 2q.	142,060	0	0	10,631t. 19c. 3q.	199,134	0	0
Emery . . . . .	.	.	.	.	68 tons	700	0	0
Lead	60t. 5c.	580	0	0	270t. 17c. 3q. 18 lbs.	3,954	0	0
Plants and seeds . . . . .	.	2	0	0	.	32	0	0
Potatoes	11t. 10c.	58	0	0	3 tons	20	0	0
Reaping machine . . . . .	.	.	.	.	1	75	0	0
Salt	256t. 12c.	717	0	0	.	.	.	.
Slate and stone . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Soap . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Specimens of Natural History . . . . .	.	71	0	0	.	141	0	0
Tallow . . . . .	.	.	.	.	1922c.	3,422	0	0
Timber . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Tongues . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Whalebone	114c. 3q. 11 lbs.	637	0	0	139c. 2q. 15 lbs.	942	0	0
Wheels . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Wine . . . . .	.	.	.	.	25 galls.	5	0	0
Wood—Boat knees	114	5	0	0	.	.	.	.
Paling	3 loads	10	0	0	.	.	.	.
Plank	7 loads	20	0	0	.	.	.	.
Wool	1,804,918 lbs.	90,183	3	6	2,329,134 lbs.	110,047	13	0
Totals . . . . .	.	275,171	10	6	.	354,907	4	0

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of the Nett Ordinary Revenue and Expenditure for the Years
1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

REVENUE.

	1844			1845			1846			1847		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Customs (including pilotage and tonnage dues)	20,124	17	0	25,590	16	7	37,643	7	5	48,742	13	9
Postage	752	10	8	946	4	10	1,108	18	4	1,504	9	1
Fees—Public Offices	1,689	9	4	2,207	2	0	2,561	12	7	3,533	2	8
Fines—Law Courts	274	13	10	347	15	8	175	2	1	237	19	4
Licences	2,156	15	2	2,409	15	0	2,941	5	3	3,733	0	0
Auction duty	563	13	4	570	8	11	546	11	5	1,458	7	3
Assessment on live stock	1,486	3	11	2,191	14	7	*1,341	16	6	*4,860	8	6
Permits	44	4	0	52	2	0	47	9	6	..	..	..
Storage of gunpowder	24	6	11	65	10	5	155	16	0	174	6	9
Tolls	..	..	..	..	..	..	280	10	0	254	0	0
City rates	..	..	..	..	..	..	70	19	0	1,181	0	2
Total fixed revenue	27,116	14	2	34,381	10	0	46,871	8	1	65,679	7	6
Incidental	761	18	8	1,800	19	10	1,146	2	1	1,348	8	8
Total revenue	27,878	12	10	36,182	9	10	48,017	10	2	67,027	16	2
Deduct from each year the revenue of the preceding one	..	..	..	27,878	12	10	36,182	9	10	48,017	10	2
Increase on each year	..	..	..	8,303	17	0	11,835	0	4	19,010	6	0

* The circumstance of a large proportion of the assessments due for 1846 not having been collected until 1847, accounts for the apparent decrease in this branch of the revenue in the former year, and its increase in the latter.

EXPENDITURE.

	1844			1845			1846			1847		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Civil establishment	17,293	10	5	17,507	14	2	18,303	13	6	22,262	14	1
Contingent expenditure	2,017	19	7	3,133	15	10	4,001	18	6	6,722	7	0
Judicial establishment	3,636	2	10	3,421	18	7	3,637	8	8	4,126	11	4
Contingent expenditure	258	8	8	245	13	8	468	17	10	1,087	1	2
Ecclesiastical establishment	214	0	11	350	0	0	350	0	0	350	0	0
Contingent expenditure	..	..	..	..	..	..	777	12	0	1,892	2	0
Public buildings and works	509	19	7	2,728	17	1	3,896	3	3	*15,646	12	8
Miscellaneous	5,523	8	8	4,711	4	1	5,772	4	1	6,891	16	1
Totals	29,453	10	8	32,099	3	5	37,207	17	10	58,979	12	4
Deduct expenditure of previous years	..	..	..	29,453	10	8	32,099	3	5	37,207	17	10
Increase on each year	..	..	..	2,645	12	9	5,108	14	5	21,771	14	6

* The great increase of expenditure during the year 1847 was occasioned by the number of public works—bridges, buildings, &c., completed, or which were in course of completion, during that year.

NOTE.—In addition to the above annual expenditure, the following repayments have been made from the Colonia Revenue on account of debts incurred by the local Government prior to the year 1844, viz., to Her Majesty's Treasury, the sum of 1274*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.*, paid in 1844 in liquidation of claims incurred in the year 1841; to the Land Fund, 984*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* in the year 1844; 1800*l.* in the year 1845; 9000*l.* in the year 1846; and 7820*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.* in the year 1847.

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNBY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April 2, 1848.

STATEMENT showing the Amount of the Ordinary Revenue and Expenditure of the Province for each Quarter of the Years, 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

Year.	Quarter ending.	Amount of Revenue.			Amount of Expenditure.			Excess of					
								Revenue over Expenditure.			Expenditure over Revenue.		
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1844	31 March	7,328	15	8	6,887	8	7	441	7	1			
	30 June	5,015	10	10	8,424	2	5				3,408	11	7
	30 Sept.	6,204	17	1	6,701	19	3				497	2	2
	31 Dec.	9,329	9	3	7,440	2	5	1,889	6	10			
	Totals .	27,878	12	10	29,453	12	8	2,330	13	11	3,905	13	9
1845	31 March	8,786	11	11	6,689	16	5	2,096	15	6			
	30 June	7,805	8	2	8,516	18	10				711	10	8
	30 Sept.	7,983	17	0	7,953	15	10	30	1	2			
	31 Dec.	11,606	12	9	8,938	12	4	2,668	0	5			
	Totals .	36,182	9	10	32,099	3	5	4,794	17	1	711	10	8
1846	31 March	10,958	14	3	9,741	10	5	1,217	3	10			
	30 June	10,180	17	4	8,878	19	0	1,301	18	4			
	30 Sept.	11,328	16	9	9,841	15	6	1,487	1	3			
	31 Dec.	15,549	1	10	8,745	12	11	6,803	8	11			
	Totals .	48,017	10	2	37,207	17	10	10,809	12	4			
1847	31 March	17,616	16	10	12,898	15	4	4,718	1	6			
	30 June	15,586	6	7	13,722	19	2	1,863	7	5			
	30 Sept.	14,085	12	8	16,152	10	0				2,066	17	4
	31 Dec.	19,739	0	1	16,205	7	10	3,533	12	3			
	Totals .	67,027	16	2	58,979	12	4	18,115	1	2	2,066	17	4

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office.

COMPARATIVE RETURN relative to the Disposal of the Crown Lands of South Australia, during the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

Date.	Quantity of Land Sold.	Average price per Acre.	Mode of Sale.	Total Amount of Purchase Money				Proportion of Purchase Money Received in each Year.
				Received in England.		Received in South Australia.		
		£. s. d.		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.		
1844	1,496½	2 6 4½	Auction	100 0 0	5,566 13 0	5,666 13 0		
	1,931½	1 2 8½	Fixed price					
1845	5,675	1 11 3½	Auction	. .	52,902 8 0	52,902 8 0		
	43,983	1 0 0½	Fixed price					
1846	11,193½	4 9 8½	Auction	21,720 1 0	76,874 8 0	98,594 9 0		
	48,209	1 0 0	Fixed price					
1847	16,911½	1 2 7½	Auction	907 19 0	35,428 18 0	36,336 17 0		
	18,092	1 0 0	Fixed price					

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

No. 10.

SOUTH
AUSTRALIA.

RETURN of the Number and Description of Places of Worship in South Australia, Specifying the Locality, Amount of Accommodation, and Average Congregation of each.

Situation.	Church of England.			Church of Scotland.			Dissenting Chapels.		
	No. of Places of Worship	Adapted to contain.	Average No. of Congregation.	No. of Places of Worship	Adapted to contain.	Average No. of Congregation.	No. of Places of Worship	Adapted to contain.	Average No. of Congregation.
Adelaide	2	1050	750	2	750	200	9	1950	1230
Port Adelaide and Albert Town	1	200	120	..	..	..	1	100	80
Villages around Adelaide . . .	2	310	160	..	..	..	16	1640	660
Willunga District . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	350	145
Encounter Bay . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	100	30
Gawler Town	1	260	80	..	..	..	4	1060	790
Koorunga . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	240	240
Mount Barker	3	330	200	..	..	..	4	410	220
Totals in 1847	9	2150	1310	2	750	200	39	5850	3395
„ 1846	7	1850	1060	2	750	240	31	4700	2465
„ 1845	5	1210	840	2	360	140	31	4700	2335
„ 1844	5	1210	790	2	360	140	26	3580	2000

Situation.	Society of Friends.			Roman Catholics.		
	No. of Places of Worship	Adapted to contain.	Average No. of Congregation.	No. of Places of Worship	Adapted to contain.	Average No. of Congregation.
Adelaide	1	100	12	1	700	530
Port Adelaide and Albert Town	..	..	..	..	..	..
Villages around Adelaide . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..
Willunga District . . . . .	..	..	..	1	150	50
Encounter Bay . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gawler Town . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..
Koorunga . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mount Barker . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals in 1847	1	100	12	2	850	580
„ 1846	1	100	20	2	650	390
„ 1845	1	200	15	2	550	470
„ 1844	1	200	15	1	300	300

The information contained in this Return has been obtained from private sources, not from authentic official records, and its accuracy cannot, therefore, be confidently relied upon.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Nos. 11 and 12.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of Sunday and other Schools in the Province of South Australia, and of the Average Number of Scholars attending them, during the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.						
Years.	Number of Schools.	Number of Scholars.				Total Average Number of Scholars.
		European.		Native.		
		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
1844	19	554	545	34	26	1159
1845	26	617	582	37	29	1265
1846	24	560	511	38	31	1140
1847	32	930	918	50	28	1926
OTHER SCHOOLS.						
1844	26	316	311	51	41	719
1845	55	780	690	37	29	1536
1846	44	842	699	38	31	1610
1847	54	1057	992	50	28	2127

The information contained in this Return has been obtained from private sources, not from authentic official records, and its accuracy cannot, therefore, be confidently relied upon.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

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SOUTH
AUSTRALIA.

No. 13.

RETURN showing the Total Number of Letters and Newspapers passing through the General Post Office, distinguishing Ship from Inland, during the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

Years.	Number of Post Offices.	Letters passing through General Post Office.		Newspapers passing through General Post Office.		Total.		Income.	Expenditure.
		Ship.	Inland.	Ship.	Inland.	Letters.	Newspapers.		
								£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1844	11	26,941	9,384	50,389	10,626	36,325	61,015	752 10 8	751 17 6
1845	13	31,277	11,052	59,411	12,981	42,329	72,392	946 4 10	706 2 10
1846	17	39,233	14,136	73,012	22,137	53,369	95,149	1106 18 4	915 3 11
1847	25	48,312	31,638	86,233	37,679	79,950	123,912	1504 9 1	1269 15 1

NOTE.—About one-third of the Newspapers under the head of "Inland" were received by sea, and are consequently entered twice.

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

No. 14.

RETURN of the Number of Patients treated in the Government Hospital during the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

	Years.	Admitted on payment of Fees.	Admitted without Fees.	Discharged.	Died.
	1844	4	34	30	8
	1845	15	50	53	12
	1846	13	64	61	16
	1847	30	109	120	15

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

No. 15.

RETURN of the Number of Publicans' Licences granted in South Australia from 1844 to 1847, inclusive.

Years.	Publicans' General Licences.		Wine and Beer Licences.		Storekeepers' Licences.		Total Amounts.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	
		£.		£.		£.	£.
1844	63	1575	7	84	5	25	1684
1845	73	1825	12	144	5	25	1994
1846	106	2650	13	156	6	30	2836
1847	135	3375	6	72	9	45	3492

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

No. 16.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of Public Houses in the Province of South Australia, in the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

Locality.	Number in the Years			
	1844	1845	1846	1847
Adelaide	34	41	54	61
Port Adelaide and Albert Town .	3	4	4	5
Country, including Port Lincoln .	33	40	60	66
Totals	70	85	118	132

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

No. 17.

SOUTH
AUSTRALIA.

RETURN of Mines in the Province at the close of the Year 1847.

Name of Mine or Locality.	Description.	Distance in a direct line from Adelaide in Miles.	Bearings from Adelaide.
Second Creek, District A.	Copper.	4½	N. 105° E.
Montacute	"	10	N. 67° E.
Adelaide Company's	"	11	N. 65° E.
Ditto	"	46	N. 16° E.
Kanmantoo Creek, Torrens R.	"	12	N. 62° E.
Sections 570 and 571, District B.	"	12	S. 21° W.
Horse Shoe, Onkaparinga	"	17	S. 10° W.
Section 361, District C.	"	20	S. 12° W.
Sections 1504 and 1024, Little Para	"	22	N. 28° E.
Kanmantoo, Mount Barker	"	25	E. 20° S.
Paringa	"	25	E. 20° S.
Greenock Creek	"	34	N. 25° E.
Australian Company	"	35	N. 75° E.
Ditto	"	43	N. 18° E.
Flaxman's Valley	"	38	N. 39° E.
Poonawurta	"	40	N. 45° E.
Kapunda	"	44	N. 18° E.
Grand Junction	"	45	N. 18° E.
North Kapunda	"	45	N. 18° E.
Royal Mining Company	"	45	N. 18° E.
Yorke's Peninsula	"	55	N.W. by W.
Wakefield	"	69	N.
Dutton's	"	81	N. 11° E.
Princess Royal	"	83	N. 10° E.
Burra Burra	"	86	N. 8° E.
Bon Accord	"	88	N. 6° E.
Mount Remarkable	"	150	N. 16° W.
Victoria Company	Copper and Gold.	10	N. 16° E.
Section 5536, Torrens River	Copper and Lead.	10	N. 50° E.
Rapid Bay	"	67	S. 23° W.
Glen Osmond	Lead.	3½	E. 28° S.

* These mines are now in active working.

* A royalty of ½ is reserved on these mines.

Compiled from authentic official records.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

No. 18.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of Manufactories and Works in the Province of South Australia, for the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

Description of Work.	Number in			
	1844	1845	1846	1847
Barilla manufactory	1	1	1	1
Boat-builder . . . . .	..	..	1	1
Boiling-down establishments . . . . .	..	..	..	2
Breweries	9	18	13	15
Candle-maker . . . . .	..	..	..	1
Cloth and woollen manufactory . . . . .	..	..	1	1
Coach manufactories	2	3	4	4
Flour mills—Steam	3	11	15	15
Wind	7	8	8	8
Water	2	3	1	2
Cattle	4	2	2	..
Foundries—brass and iron	3	4	2	2
Machine manufactories	4	5	5	4
Maltsters . . . . .	..	10	2	2
Organ-builder . . . . .	..	..	1	1
Pottery	1	1	..	..
Salt-manufactory	1	1	1	1
Ship-builders . . . . .	..	..	1	2
Snuff and tobacco manufactories	1	3	1	1
Soap and candle manufactories	4	4	4	3
Soap-makers . . . . .	..	..	..	2
Starch-manufactory	1	..	..	..
Tanneries	7	8	6	7
Water-works	1	1	1	1

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

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256 REPORTS EXHIBITING THE PAST AND PRESENT

SOUTH
AUSTRALIA.

No. 19.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of the Quantity of Land under Cultivation in the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

Crops.	Acres under Cultivation.			
	1844	1845	1846	1847
Wheat . . .	18,980	18,838	26,134½	25,920
Barley . . .	4,264½	4,342½	3,489½	5,840
Oats . . .	1,045	1,485½	1,963½	2,946½
Maize . . .	241½	86½	106	161½
Potatoes . . .	397½	459	590½	381
Garden . . .	761	631	896½	993½
Vineyard . .	..	..	111½	198
SELF-SOWN				
Wheat . . .	888½	249	None returned.	
Barley . . .	170	56		
Oats . . .	160	71		
Totals . .	26,907½	26,218½	33,292½	36,440½
No. of Proprietors	1,357	1,269	1,714	1,837

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

No. 20.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of the Number of Stock Assessed for the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

Years.	Horses above the Age of Six Months.	Horned Cattle above the Age of Six Months.	Sheep, including Weaned Lambs.
1844	902	22,711	355,689
1845	1,044	26,146	480,669
1846	1,826	56,986	681,374
1847	1,705	56,375	784,811

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

No. 21.

AVERAGE PRICE of Farm Produce at Adelaide during the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

Years.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Potatoes.	Hay.	Butter.	Cheese.
	Per Bushel.	Per Bushel.	Per Bushel.	Per Ton.	Per Ton.	Per Pound.	Per Pound.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	£. s.	£. s.	s. d.	s. d.
1844	3 0	3 0	3 4	5 0	2 8	0 10	0 7½
1845	3 0	3 0	3 4	5 0	2 10	1 0	0 7
1846	4 9	3 9	4 0	4 0	3 0	1 1	0 9
1847	4 0	3 9	4 0	4l. 10s. to 12l.	3 0	1 3	0 9

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

No. 22.

RETURN of Prices paid for Bread and Fresh Meat by the Commissariat at Adelaide, for the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

Years.	Bread.	Fresh Meat.
1844	1d. per lb.	1½d. per lb.
1845	1½d. and 1¾d. per lb.	1½d. and 2¾d. per lb.
1846	1½d. and 1¾d. per lb.	2½d. per lb.
1847	1½d. per lb.	2½d. per lb.

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

No. 23.

SOUTH
AUSTRALIA.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of the Number of Offenders Convicted in the Supreme Court of Criminal Jurisdiction in South Australia in the Years ended the 30th September, 1844, 1845, 1846, 1847.

FELONIES.	1844	1845	1846	1847
<i>Offences against the person.</i>				
Murder . . . . .	..	2	..	1
Stabbing, cutting, or shooting with intent to do some bodily harm	1	..	..	1
Highway robbery	1	..	5	..
Rape . . . . .	..	1	1	..
<i>Offences against property.</i>				
Burglary . . . . .	..	..	2	3
Stealing in dwelling-house . . . . .	..	1	..	3
Burglariously breaking and entering ditto and stealing therefrom . . . . .	..	..	1	..
Breaking and entering dwelling-house and stealing therefrom . . . . .	..	..	2	..
Sheep stealing	1	..	..	2
Horse stealing . . . . .	..	1	..	1
Cattle stealing	1	..	..	..
Receiving stolen goods	2	..	..	..
Larceny	11	7	16	15
Larceny by servant . . . . .	..	..	..	1
Larceny and former conviction . . . . .	..	1	..	..
Larceny of promissory note, &c. . . . .	..	..	1	2
Obtaining goods, &c., under false pretences . . . . .	..	..	1	..
Stealing from the person . . . . .	..	..	1	..
<i>Miscellaneous.</i>				
Forgery . . . . .	..	..	1	..
Uttering forged notes, orders, &c., with intent to defraud . . . . .	..	1	2	..
Making and counterfeiting coin . . . . .	..	7	..	..
Accessory . . . . .	..	..	1	..
Total Felonies	17	21	34	29
MISDEMEANORS.				
Concealing birth of child . . . . .	..	1	..	..
Assault with intent to commit rape . . . . .	..	..	1	..
Ditto ditto burglary . . . . .	..	..	1	..
Fraud	1	..	..	..
Assault	3	..	4	2
Total Misdemeanors	4	1	6	2
Total convictions	21	22	40	31

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

No. 24.

RETURN of the Number of Cases heard and determined in the Magistrates' Courts, Adelaide, during the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

Description of Cases.	During the Years			
	1844	1845	1846	1847
<i>Preliminary Investigations.</i>				
Criminal cases sent to Supreme Court	44	52	61	63
Criminal cases dismissed	48	53	70	65
<i>Summary Jurisdiction.</i>				
Informations under Acts of Council	72	76	61	102
Criminal trials, assaults, misdemeanors, &c.	85	96	184	127
Drunkenness	242	411	465	508
Causes on the Civil side	518	516	487	589
Totals	1009	1206	1328	1454

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

SOUTH
AUSTRALIA.

No. 25.

RETURN of the Number of Fiats in Insolvency Issued in the Province of South Australia during the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

	Number in the Years			
	1844	1845	1846	1847
Issued on the Petition of Creditors	2	1	..	2
„ „ Imprisoned Debtors .	8	13	6	12
„ „ Debtors at large. .	..	12	10	7
Totals	10	26	16	21

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

No. 26.

COMPARATIVE RETURN showing the Number and Nature of Writs which passed through the Sheriff's Office during the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

Years.	Nature of Writs.							Totals.
	Capias ad satisfaciendum.	Capias.	Fieri facias.	Habere facias possessionem.	To levy Fines.	Habeas Corpus.	Attachment for Contempt.	
1844	11	10	22	..	1	1	1	46
1845	20	6	30	1	..	..	..	57
1846	14	11	24	..	2	..	3	54
1847	10	13	28	3	2	..	..	56

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

No. 27.

RETURN of the Amount of Mortgages on Land in the Province of South Australia Registered during the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

Amounts lent on	1844			1845			1846			1847		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Town lands	1,155	0	0	5,434	11	0	5,089	0	0	6,203	9	0
Country lands	13,860	10	6	6,997	16	8	30,651	6	9	27,308	2	3
Town and country lands .	5,022	11	0	30	0	0	1,500	0	0	529	15	0
Totals. . . .	20,038	1	6	12,462	7	8	37,240	6	9	34,041	6	3

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April 1848.

No. 28.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of Liabilities secured by Bills of Sale, Judgments, and Warrants of Attorney, Registered during the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

Securities.	1844			1845			1846			1847		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Bills of Sale	16,395	9	4	12,983	16	0	49,659	9	11	22,229	18	5
Judgments	532	6	0	994	8	0	10,478	19	0	20,412	0	0
Warrants of Attorney .	5,206	0	0	9,783	15	11	10,741	2	0	939	19	0
Totals. . . .	22,133	15	4	23,761	19	11	70,879	10	11	43,581	17	5

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

No. 29.

RETURN showing the General Condition of South Australia at the close of each Year from 1840 to 1847, inclusive, in reference to the Amount of Population at those Periods.

Years.	Total Number of Inhabitants of the Province.	Number of Inhabitants in the Municipality of Adelaide.	Number of Inhabitants in the Rural Districts.	Number of Public Houses in Adelaide, Port Adelaide, and Albert Town.	Number of Public Houses in the Country.	Number of Convictions in the course of the Year for Crimes and Misdemeanors.	Number of Flour Mills.	Number of Manufactories.	Number of Acres of Land in Cultivation.	Value of Exports of Colonial Produce.	Amount of Government Expenditure for each Year.	Amount of Revenue for each Year.
										£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1840	14,610	8,489	6,121	70	37	47	..	4	2,503	15,650 0 0	169,966 19 5	30,199 14 11
1841	..	..	..	67	38	37	..	..	6,722	31,826 0 0	104,471 12 8	26,720 15 11
1842	..	..	..	44	37	36	..	..	19,790	29,079 10 6	54,444 7 3	22,074 4 6
1843	17,366	6,107	11,259	34	33	31	16	31	28,690	66,160 17 2	29,842 16 6	24,142 15 2
1844	18,999	..	..	37	33	21	21	35	26,918½	82,268 13 8	29,453 12 8	27,878 12 10
1845	22,390	7,413	14,977	45	40	22	24	59	26,218½	131,800 6 0	32,099 3 5	36,182 9 10
1846	25,893	..	..	58	60	40	26	44	33,292½	287,059 17 6	37,207 17 10	48,017 10 2
1847	31,153	..	..	66	66	31	25	51	36,440½	275,115 12 0*	58,979 12 4	67,027 16 2

* See the Note appended to Return No. 5, for an explanation of the apparent falling off, during the year 1847, in the amount of value of Exports of Colonial Produce; of which the progressive annual increase is most satisfactorily and clearly exhibited in Return No. 6, which shows the value of such exports to have been 354,907*l.* 4*s.* during the year included between the 5th April, 1847, and 5th April, 1848.

Compiled from authentic official records.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

ST. HELENA.

(No. 16.)

No. 32.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir PATRICK ROSS, G.C. M.G., to Earl GREY.

ST. HELENA.

No. 32.

St. Helena, May 1, 1848.

(Received July 28, 1848.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of this colony for 1847, containing the usual information under the respective heads.

Finance.

Taxes and duties collected during the year, amount to the sum of 14,584*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, exclusive of 874*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*, received on account of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, showing an increase of revenue of 913*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*, as compared with the previous year; this increase has taken place in the customs.

Expenditure.

The expenditure during the year 1847, amounts to the sum of 21,676*l.* 18*s.* 1½*d.*, being an excess, as compared with the previous year of 483*l.* 16*s.* 11½*d.* The additional expense which has been incurred in the public works, will account for this excess.

Civil Establishment.

The following changes and appointments have taken place.

Mr. Mapleton, Acting Summary Judge, has been confirmed, vice Hodson resigned.

Mr. Melliss, has been provisionally appointed country magistrate, on a salary of 100*l.* a year, the permanency of this appointment, is still under the consideration of the Secretary of State.

To secure the services of a more efficient police force, the pay of the men (nine in number), has been increased from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* per diem, and a military superintendent, whose services could no longer be spared, and who in addition to his military allowance, received 2*s.* 6*d.* a-day, has been replaced by a civilian at 6*s.* a-day.

Pensions.

The amount paid under this head, is 2646*l.* 11*s.*, which, with the exception of the sum of 64*l.* 19*s.*, granted by Her Majesty's Government, has all been paid to servants of the late establishment.

The following additions have been made to the pension list, payable from the funds of the colony.

ST. HELENA.

Henry Cearly, late master plumber, at 32*l.* a-year.

The following pensions granted for loss of office under the East India Company, but not drawn hitherto, in consequence of the re-employment of the parties, have been allowed :—

Henry Doveton . . .	£90
Henry Cearly . . .	64

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Pension granted to the orphans of Captain Pritchard, also late of the Company's service, and who died in 1846, 40*l.*

Parish and Population.

The population of this island is calculated to be 5500, and the expense of the parish, in connection with the poor, averages 600*l.* a year, whilst the total expense of the parish amounts to the sum of 1003*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.*

Schools and Societies.

There are at present four private societies, established for the benefit of the lower classes, and the Benevolent Society founded in 1814, and patronized by Government for the relief and education of the poor. Two schools in town, and three in the country are maintained by this society, at which 285 children are at present educated (being 34 more than during the year 1846), at an annual expense of 121*l.* 10*s.* These schools are open to all classes, and unlimited as to number.

Government schools, for which an annual sum of 500*l.* is allowed, and which likewise are open to all classes, and unlimited as to the number to be educated, has afforded instruction during the past year to 290 children (being 12 less than the last year). It is to be regretted that the parents of upwards of one-half of the children in the colony do not avail themselves of the means for instructing their children, which has been provided by Government and public charities.

* * * *

Commissariat.

The following disbursements have been made by the Commissary :—

Ordnance department . . .	£ 7,829 19 2
Ordinaries	10,343 19 3
Navy	10,191 15 4

* * * *

Currency and Exchange.

Bills to the value of 27,734*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* have been drawn by the Commissary. The loss for discount on these bills amount to 483*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*

The necessity of regular remittances to this colony in specie was pointed out in my Despatch, which accompanied the Blue Book for 1846.

During the last few months, consignments of specie from England and the Cape of Good Hope has rendered the Commissariat chest, for the present, independent of the merchants. It is asserted by the merchants, that, if the Commissary were authorized at all times to issue such bills as he might require at par, he could command a sufficient supply of money, independent of any remittances from England.

Mortality.

Deaths 66	During the year 99 deaths have occurred; of this number only 66 were inhabitants.
Births 171	

The number of cases treated in the civil hospital were 235,—25 of whom died.

Trade.

During the year 1847, 1023 vessels have touched here, being 30 more than the previous year, and the traffic carried on with the shipping appears to flourish. Of the above number, 653 were English merchant vessels.

Liberated Africans.

The gross expenditure under this head, during the past year, has been 3267*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.*, of which 1481*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* was paid in Treasury bills.

Nine hundred and thirty-two Africans have arrived in the colony during the year 1847.

Agriculture.

ST. HELENA

The quantity of land under cultivation remains the same as previous years, viz., 155 acres; pasturage 7500 acres, much of which is capable of cultivation. There are, likewise, 25,400 acres suitable for the grazing of sheep and goats.

Gaols and Prisons.

A large number of the prisoners in this colony are soldiers. A prison for this class, to contain eight, is in progress of construction on Ladder-hill, by order of the Secretary-at-War; consequently, although the present gaol is in all respects unfit for the purpose to which it is applied, as stated in my Despatch No. 41, dated 8th October, 1847, still a prison on so extensive a scale as that submitted by the Commanding Engineer in that Despatch, will be doubtless inexpedient; and it is desirable that the attention of the local Government and the Commanding Officer of Engineers should be again given to this subject, before any steps be taken for commencing a prison according to the heavy estimate which has accompanied my Despatch to England, but to which no reply has been yet received.

The total number of prisoners committed during the past year are 288.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c.

(Signed) PATRICK ROSS.

MAURITIUS.

MAURITIUS.

(No. 102.)

No. 33.

No. 33.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir W. M. GOMM, K.C.B., to Earl GREY.

Mauritius, April 10, 1848.

(Received July 3, 1848.)

MY LORD,

My general Reports in connexion with the transmission of the "Blue Book" for the two last years, have entered so freely and circumstantially, particularly the more recent one, into all the concerns of the colony, and I have endeavoured to render my Despatches, transmitted to your Lordship in the course of the last twelve months, so ample in all the detail of all the vicissitudes which have affected the colony so seriously within the period, that I shall be but recapitulating the matter of reports previously made on points of primary importance while penning this Despatch.

1. The financial statements of this year will be found favourable to the colony, as compared even with those of the last; the greatly increased excess of revenue over expenditure arising principally from the productiveness of the taxes specially applied to defraying the cost of immigration.

The diminution under the head of "Exports" is accounted for chiefly by the delay in the shipment of the crops of the year.

The growing contributions on the part of the lower classes to the support of the Government schools, instanced in the proceeds of the year included under the head of "Incidental Receipts," is subject of gratification, and fraught with promise for the future, as preparing the way for the extension of these establishments, so desirable on every account.

The increased expenditure of the year is accounted for by the great additional impulse given to the repair of the public roads, and the prosecution of public works of magnitude, both urgently needed.

2. It is in the judicial department that the changes of greatest importance to the colony have taken place in the course of the year; and chief of these, the bringing into effect at the period prescribed by the Order in Council of 13th September, 1845, the use of the English language in the oral proceedings of the superior courts.

The opposition offered to the measure at the outset, and obstacles subsequently thrown in the way of its prosecution, have been such as could not but have been anticipated, and have been successfully rebutted: confined altogether to professional irritation, and in no sense shared by the colony at large. Rules of court, called for by circumstances for better securing the ends of justice and

MAURITIUS.

the interests of clients, have been framed and carried into operation by the Judges, and the protests and remonstrances of a portion of the bar, contesting the legality of such proceeding on the part of their Honours, declared to be without foundation by your Lordship.

The projected reform in the code of Criminal Procedure, reported in my last general summary as being then before the Council, continues in the same predicament, while the occurrences of the year which has elapsed afford additional evidence of the ample need there exists for the application of such judicial reforms.

The police force, under the vigilant superintendence of its efficient head, has made marked advances within the year towards the state of proficiency in which it is desirable to maintain it.

3. The too confident reliance upon remote contingencies which would seem to have had a principal share in bringing such extensive calamity upon the chief portion of the London companies of commerce connected with Mauritius, has not been without its influence upon the proceedings of their correspondents in the colony, and much indiscretion and improvidence has been laid open by the scrutiny to which the concerns of the several local houses that have been reduced to extremity by the unhappy occurrences taking place in London have been of necessity subjected.

Adequately to counteract all the calamitous consequences of so sudden and universal a shock to the principal colonial interests is beyond the power of any government; but your Lordship will, I trust, ere this, have been convinced that the local government has not been slow in the appliance of its most extreme means for this end.

As already stated in my Despatch of 15th January, announcing the proposed measures for reduction of existing imposts in various branches of revenue, the emergency has not found the colony hampered with an impoverished treasury, through a too facile yielding to importunate demands for lavish introductions from India, nor with the necessity of hastily restoring to their homes the consequent superabundance of labourers suddenly thrown out of employ.

By the increased productiveness, through improved arrangement for collection of the immigration taxes, and the increasing confidence in your Lordship's ultimate confirmation of these measures, in the face of numerous remonstrances from interested parties in the colony, and by a large deficit in the amount of introduction, provided for, however, in the estimates of the last two years, the result partly of easy circumstances of the Indians of the upper provinces in their homes, and partly of failure of tonnage for their conveyance hither, and by the relinquishment on the part of the agricultural interests of all demand of introduction for the present year beyond the regulated number of 6000 men, the Government has found itself in a position to accord relief to every interest in the colony, and mainly to agriculture, to the extent of 65,000*l.* of annual revenue, specified in my several Despatches forwarding the reports of proceedings in council thereupon.

Other facilities of temporary application are also about to be accorded to the interests principally aggrieved, as intimated to your Lordship in my Despatch No. 95, of the 1st instant, of a description and to an extent that the local government could hardly consider itself justified in countenancing and proceeding to carry through on showing less urgent than that afforded by the extraordinary pressure of the hour.

A relief promising to be of a still more enduring character, and still more comprehensive in its scope, is comprised in the dispositions of your Lordship for the establishment of a paper currency upon a secure and wholesome footing in the colony.

Not only in the departments of Government, but in mercantile circles of consideration, the principle of the measure is most favourably received, its provisions affording an earnest that while the aim at imprudent speculation will find no encouragement, nor insolvency a factitious support, nor lost confidence a guarantee; through their application a system of wholesome credit is established, and facilities are opened which will prove of real value in the commercial transactions of the colony.

4. The sugar crop of the year has again been an abundant one, little inferior to that of 1846, and much surpassing that of preceding periods.

The disappointment of hands to the extent solicited, considerable in each

For Sir W. Gumm's Despatch, Jan. 15, 1848, *vide* Papers relative to the West Indies and Mauritius, ordered by the House of Commons to be Printed, June 9, 1848, No. 399, page 210. Ditto ditto, House of Lords, Aug. 4, 1848, No. 250, page 1141.

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of these years, owing to causes already exposed, has had no sensible effect prejudicial to the gathering in of the crop in either.

The growing canes of the present year promise most fairly, and are in a high state of health and strength, while the season of periodical exposure to violence of weather is fast approaching its close.

The continued favour experienced by the colony in this respect is the more signal, since, in addition to the ruder visitations of hurricane in each successive season through some years past, the neighbouring island of Bourbon has been suffering for the last two years, and so continues, from a disease extensively prevailing among the canes, as pernicious in its effects as that which has visited the potato crops of Europe so destructively.

5. The actual position of the industrial classes of the colony, native and immigrant, has been amply treated in my last General Report, and successively exposed to your Lordship in numerous reports from the Council and myself in the course of the year, and much misconception has been set at rest in various quarters with reference to their prospects and condition respectively.

To this end the census has also worked beneficially.

6. I do not find occasion to add any notices to those furnished in my last General Report respecting the easy classes of society, and the relations in which they stand towards each other.

Some indiscreet attempts have been recently made to force an appearance of amalgamation, in the shape of general meetings, for purposes vaguely defined, the proceedings at which have been successively reported to your Lordship; but such fitful summonses to concord have rather tended to bring into promi- nency the breach which I fear will long exist between these really distinct parties in the community.

7. The general health of the colony among both its native and Indian population has undergone throughout the term only the alternations common to periods not marked by any special visitation; but the murrain which produced such extensive ravage among the horned cattle through the larger portion of the year 1844, and re-appeared last year with some virulence in particular districts, has again manifested itself with increased intensity in the windward portion of the island, and swept off numerous herds.

The most stringent measures that Government can originate for arresting the evil have been promptly brought into operation; but it is on their own individual exertions that proprietors must mainly depend, and society at large must rely, for the successful working of all such administrative regulations.

8. Our trading relations with Madagascar continue suspended; but a reason- able hope is entertained that this serious inconvenience to the colony is approaching its term, while the barbarous people themselves will be essentially benefited, through the overtures which will shortly be made to them on the part of Her Majesty's Government.

In a social and religious point of view the position of the dominant tribe in that vast island at this day is most interesting, as I have endeavoured to make apparent to your Lordship in several recent Despatches, principally in No. 242, of 28th October.

9. The wants of the Church of England in the colony were reported upon in detail to your Lordship in my last General Report, and these must of necessity go on increasing in number and in degree until Her Majesty's Government shall see fit to provide the remedy.

The Church of the Establishment in Mauritius is still waiting to be included under some one Anglican see, and her ministry to be regulated under some one spiritual head.

A third place of public worship will be presently open in the colony for the celebration of her rites; but we have not a consecrated edifice, nor a confirmed native communicant in the island.

The absence, therefore, of episcopal jurisdiction is our prime need, and some increase to the ministry of our Church is indispensable to the due observance of her prescribed ordinances and pastoral superintendence.

My latest Despatch, bearing upon this subject, is No. 31, of 12th February.

* * * * *

CEYLON.

No. 34.

(No. 120.)

No. 34.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Viscount TORRINGTON to Earl GREY.

Queen's House, Colombo,

July 4, 1848.

(Received August 28, 1848.)

MY LORD,

THE occasion of sending home the annual statistical returns of the island for the past year affords me the opportunity of conveying to your Lordship my general impression of the progress of the colony during that period; and this, from circumstances which I shall presently allude to, has been less satisfactory than I could have wished, though not less so than might have been anticipated from the disturbing causes which have affected the commerce of Ceylon in common with other portions of Her Majesty's dominions.

Sir J. Emerson Tennent, in the Despatch which accompanied the Blue Book for 1846, impressed upon your Lordship the fact that the attempt in progress for the last few years to establish the cultivation of coffee and sugar in Ceylon was still but an imperfect and untested experiment; much uncertainty hanging over the questions of labour and carriage, and the quantity and quality of the produce, and still greater mystery attaching to the unascertained influences of climate, temperature, aspect, and soil, as well as to the peculiar treatment of the coffee tree in peculiar localities, and the probable duration of its productiveness in all.

On many, indeed most of these points, speculation is still unsatisfied; the only well ascertained fact is, the almost universal failure of estates in the lower range of hills; and the discovery of this followed by the abandonment of numerous plantations, or of such portions of them as have proved unremunerative; and coupled with the depressed value of colonial produce in the home market, has had the effect of checking enterprise, and restricting the extension of cultivation generally throughout the island.

Simultaneously with this the vicissitudes of credit and the convulsions affecting capital and commerce universally have seriously prejudiced the mercantile interests of Ceylon during the past year; though the effect has been less apparent on the income and revenue of 1847 than it is likely to be on that of 1848, now in process of realization.

The present depression is, however, ascribable to temporary causes; and I have reasonable grounds for believing that the permanent capabilities of Ceylon as a producing Colony, and its facilities for trade are such as will continue to present a remunerative field for prudent investment and sedulous industry, though they may prove incommensurate with the calculations of ardent speculators, or disappoint the hopes of inexperienced adventurers.

Just complaint has been made of the carelessness and inaccuracy of the statistical returns heretofore prepared for the Blue Book of this colony; and though I cannot pronounce those now sent to be in all respects complete, they exhibit evidences of increased attention and improvement. In a former Despatch,* I communicated to your Lordship the measures I have taken for enforcing attention to this subject by the civil service, and I enclosed the copy of a minute which I had caused to be published with that view. The effect, although only a short time has elapsed, has not disappointed my expectations; several valuable reports have been sent to me, and I have little doubt of securing at an early period systematic and connected information on all matters affecting the interests of the colony and indicative of its progress.

Statistical returns.

SECTION I.

1. POPULATION.

The returns of population are still, as your Lordship will perceive, imperfect and incorrect: but this I cannot hope to remedy till I shall have been

* No. 178, Dec. 15, 1847.

enabled to procure a census compiled with proper care and system. An early opportunity will be presented for carrying this design into effect, when the time shall have arrived for requiring the annual returns of individuals liable to be called on for labour or a money commutation in lieu of it, under the provisions of the ordinance recently sent home for your Lordship's sanction "For making provision for the formation and improvement of the means of communication in this island."* I am now taking steps to call for returns of the whole population simultaneously with those required for the purposes of this ordinance, as they can be prepared at the same time by the same parties and almost for the same expense.

2. SANATORY CONDITION.

The sanatory condition of the island during the past year has been much more satisfactory than that of 1846, when fever, dysentery, and Asiatic cholera, were more than usually prevalent, especially the latter, which carried off more than 4000 individuals with alarming rapidity. Amongst the secondary causes to which this amendment may, under Providence, be ascribed, is the return to the ordinary course of the rains and monsoons in 1847, the periods for the arrival of which had been unusually irregular during the three preceding years, a circumstance which seriously affected not only the health of this island, but the quality and value of the crops. In the present instance the rains arrived at the expected period, and, if anything, in greater abundance; a circumstance which is always coincident with the improved health of the colony. A few cases of cholera were reported in the early part of the year amongst the military at Kandy and Colombo, and the natives at Nuwera Ellia; but they speedily disappeared and have not since returned in any part of the island.

Ophthalmia during the dry season was frequent in the low country, occasioned no doubt by the hot winds and the fine sand borne by them, as well as the direct and reflected rays of the sun. But for this painful complaint the natives have a remedy, by applying alum and some vegetable astringent round the edge of the eye, outside, which has been found with them more successful than the ordinary European treatment.

The total number of native patients, including casualties, received into the hospitals throughout the island in 1847 was 5317, of whom 901 died, and 364 were remaining on the 1st January, 1848.

The total number of cases of cholera, native and European, were 330, and Asiatic Cholera. the deaths 163.

Small-pox is still almost a domesticated disease, no part of the island being Small Pox. at any time entirely free from its visitations. In 1847, the number of cases treated was 818, and of these 693 were discharged cured.

The progress of vaccination has been satisfactory. The numbers reported to Vaccination. your Lordship for 1846 were:—

	Vaccinated.	Discharged.	Failed.	Absent.
	59,403	43,164	7,523	8,716

Those for 1847 exceed these returns under each head :—

	Vaccinated.	Discharged.	Failed	Absent.
	65,500	46,970	7,908	10,622

3. RELIGION.

The ecclesiastical returns now forwarded exhibit the usual information as to the ministers, chapels, and congregation of the various Christian denominations throughout the island. The vast preponderance of Roman Catholics will attract your Lordship's attention; a circumstance which is ascribable to the singular exertions made by the Portuguese when in possession of the maritime districts of the island to convert the people to Christianity; exertions which

CEYLON.

Christians only
nominally.

have never been made on the same scale or with the same anxiety for nominal proselytism by their successors in the sovereignty of Ceylon.

At the same time, it is my duty to point out to your Lordship the fact that, although the labours of Christian ministers from the times of the Portuguese to the present have greatly shaken the confidence of the natives in their own superstition, they have never yet been able to induce the people to adopt Christianity in its stead with that firm and abiding confidence which constitutes the reality of conversion. Multitudes call themselves Christians in public, and attend to all the outward observances of our worship; but in secret they are still more closely attached to the doctrines of the Buddhists and the Hindoo mythology; and on every emergency, but more especially at the approach of death, it is but too frequently their custom to turn doubtfully from the sacraments of their nominal church, and to repose their last confidence in the ceremonies of Devil worshippers and the priests of Brahma and Buddhu.

Confidence in the truth might, under the Divine guidance, be inspired in the minds of the natives by the efforts of the ministers of religion, acting, if not in concert, at least without open antagonism to each other; uniting to make known the great essentials of Christianity on which all are agreed, and contented, in the first instance at least, to be silent as to those minor forms and constructions on which sectarians must necessarily differ. Such is the course followed by the American missionaries, who have occupied the northern parts of Ceylon since the year 1818; but their success has been neutralized to a great degree by the absence of a similar policy amongst the other clergy labouring throughout the island; and, generally speaking, throughout the whole extent of Ceylon, perplexity has been engendered in the minds of inquiring natives by the open rivalry of contending sects, till, unable to penetrate the subtleties which form the basis of these jealous distinctions, they find it safer to cling to an ancient superstition, in which the concurrence of multitudes gives them confidence, rather than exchange it for a form of Christianity which, however devotedly adopted by one church, is certain to be surrounded by doubts, if not denounced as damnable and idolatrous, by some other. The vast majority of the natives adhere openly to their own forms of superstition, whilst those who, through timidity or interest, or even from a higher impulse, make a formal profession of Christianity, still cling in private to their national idolatries, reluctant to trust themselves unhesitatingly to one form of belief, concerning the efficacy of which the professors of all others disagree.

Church of England.

As regards the progress of the Church of England during the past year, a large church was consecrated at Colombo on New Year's day, built conjointly by public subscription and a grant from the Treasury, under the ordinance No. 1 of 1845. The foundation of another was laid at Nuwera Ellia, on Easter day, by the bishop, but the building has been suspended for the present. When completed, it will be served by a colonial chaplain, for whom your Lordship has sanctioned an annual salary of 150*l.* under certain conditions.

Churches built.

Chapels have also been built and licensed at Gatambe within the district of the Kandyan Church Mission, and at Yakbedde within that of Cotta near Colombo; both erected by funds supplied by the Church Missionary Society in England, assisted by private contributions within the colony.

A temporary church has likewise been erected by private subscription, and licensed by the bishop at Kotmalie, and another at Rambodde, both in the central province; others are in contemplation, and will, it is to be hoped, be completed when the present financial crisis shall have passed over.

These and the arrival and departure of several of the colonial chaplains and missionaries form the principal events connected with the religious ministrations of the Church of England during the year. In their educational labours, the clergy have been equally zealous and indefatigable. Besides a large number of boys' schools long since established and supported by them, five girls' schools have recently been added to those in connexion with the Cotta mission, and not less than 21 new schools have been formed by the Church School Society, unaided by any support from the School Commission.

Missions.

The Rev. Mr. Thurston has been appointed by the bishop to the superintendence of a new mission station formed in the Cina Corle, north of Colombo, and extending over an area of 20 square miles, with a dense population. Eight schools have been opened within this district, and Divine service is

performed in 12 places alternately by the missionary and his assistant catechists. The native headmen have shown the best disposition towards this mission, and offered grants of land and contributions in materials and labour for the erection of four small churches four miles apart; a strong evidence of the success of the mission and extended sense of the value and truth of Christianity.

In the Jaffna district two new missionary stations have been opened at Copay and Navil Cooly, another at Madampe, and a fourth is projected at Mulletivoe, on the north-east coast of the island.

As regards the *Church of Scotland*, the colonial chaplain at Kandy still officiates in the great Hall of Audience attached to the palace of the former kings; the church, for which subscriptions were raised in 1844-5, not having yet been erected, owing chiefly to financial difficulties, which it is trusted will shortly be overcome.

Church of Scotland.

In the course of the year the full Presbyterian worship has been restored to the church of Galle by the arrival of the Rev. Mr. Clarke as colonial chaplain. Mr. Clarke is a licentiate of the Synod of Ulster, appointed in 1846 by the Secretary of State; and the building in which he officiates is the ancient Dutch church which is still the property of the Presbyterian Consistory, who continue, as heretofore, to lend it for the accommodation of the chaplain of the Church of England; an arrangement, the general adoption of which I cannot too strongly recommend as not only conducive to public accommodation, but as eminently calculated to encourage that feeling of brotherly kindness which it is so essential to promote and preserve in a community such as that of Ceylon.

Joint use of Churches by Episcopalians and Presbyterians.

The *Wesleyan Methodists* to whom we make an annual grant for the purposes of education and religious instruction have divided the island into two districts; one to the north which is inhabited by Malabars and Moormen, speaking Tamul; and the other embracing the south of the island where the population and language are Singhalese. In the north, the Rev. Mr. Percival has under his superintendence upwards of 40 schools, including boarding schools for both males and females, and furnishing a course of education which embraces ancient and modern history, algebra, geometry, natural philosophy, and the elements of mental and moral science. Next to that of the American missionaries, (whose establishment will be treated of under the head of education,) the success of the pupils at schools under the Methodist mission is greater than that of any other religious body in the colony.

Wesleyan Methodists.

In the southern district, under the Rev. Mr. Gogerly, education and religious instruction keep equal pace, there being but few villages where preaching is established, that have not likewise a village school, where education is given either in English or the vernacular tongue; and where the funds are too limited to admit of the use of paper and pens; the children are taught to write their language in the fashion of their country, with an iron style on a stripe of the Talipot leaf. In the southern district the Wesleyan Methodists have 86 schools containing 2963 boys and 675 girls.

The Baptists are another important body, extensively and most beneficially employed in the work of religious and intellectual teaching. They expend annually about 2000*l.*, contributed exclusively by voluntary subscribers; from which sum they maintain 3 European and 20 native missionaries, and educate 1531 pupils in 50 schools, distributed throughout the districts of Matura, Colombo, and Kandy. They have likewise a printing establishment at Kandy, from which they have issued 8300 school-books and 40,000 instructive tracts.

Baptists.

I have alluded to the labours of the missionaries conjointly in the school-room and the pulpit, not only because the excellent men who discharge these important duties are the most valuable promoters of education in the colony, but because experience has taught every Church whose clergy officiate amongst the natives of Ceylon, that preaching makes but a transient impression, if any, unless the way has been first prepared by the process of mental cultivation; and that sincere conversions from heathenism to Christianity are only to be looked after intellectual teaching shall have prepared the minds of the Cingalese for the reception of spiritual enlightenment.

Education the best preparation for conversion to Christianity.

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4. EDUCATION.

The American mission.

Freedom from sectarianism.

Numbers educated by them.

Boarding-schools.

Influence of female education.

Tamul college.

Printing establishment.

The policy of rendering education auxiliary to the introduction of pure Christianity, unalloyed by sectarian jealousies, has in no instance been so gracefully illustrated as in the establishment of the American mission, whose ministers and officers have taken up an important position in the northern part of the island, and have been extensively employed in the work of instruction for upwards of 30 years. A company of these good men landed in Ceylon in the year 1815, and almost immediately selected Jaffna and its vicinity as the scene of their future labours, and its Tamul population as the object of their care. Of this first party, one, the Rev. Mr. Poor, returned to the United States in the present year; and another, the Rev. Mr. Meigs, is still here, and earnestly engaged, after having already spent 33 years in the work of education in the colony. With him, 11 other American gentlemen, lay and clerical, including a physician, are associated as teachers, or for conducting the printing department, and the publication of religious and educational works; and the constitution of their community is so free from a sectarian taint, that it includes clergy of different denominations, living under the same roof, using the same pulpit, and engaged in the same pursuits; and all, as a body, have shown the utmost anxiety to co-operate with the missionaries of the Church of England and the Methodists in the promotion of the same object, the diffusion of intellectual and religious instruction, and the expounding of the great principles of simple Christianity. "The object of their mission," as stated in one of their recent Reports, "is not to disseminate the peculiar doctrines of any party; and their missionaries are selected indiscriminately from the Congregational and Presbyterian Churches, and sent out to preach repentance of sin and justification by faith in Jesus Christ as the only way of salvation; and it is believed," they modestly add, "that the missionaries in Ceylon have not departed from this rule."*

Twenty-three natives, who have been trained as their assistants, are now employed under their superintendence; a few in preaching and religious instruction, but the majority in the conducting of schools and the distribution of the Scriptures and religious tracts in the native language.

Since their arrival in Ceylon these men have spent upwards of 100,000*l.*, collected by voluntary subscriptions in the United States; and they have trained in their schools 93,000 children, male and female, who have received instruction for a longer or a shorter time, or averaging the period of their pupilage at four years, nearly 25,000 individuals have thus received a competent education, for which they are indebted to these strangers.

In addition to numerous day schools for tuition, both in English and Tamul, the American mission has established extensive boarding schools for boys and girls, where the pupils are taken entirely under their charge, residing under their roof, and receiving an admirable moral and domestic training in addition to scholastic instruction. The effects of this system upon the people generally, and, above all, the influence and example of the females who have received their education in these most interesting establishments, are now producing highly beneficial results in the aspect of the community generally, and working by degrees a decided change for the better in the domestic habits of the people.

A Tamul college has likewise been established at Batticotta, to which the most successful pupils in the elementary schools are admitted as students and residents, and instructed in the higher branches of literature, science, and religion. Since its opening in 1823, 570 students have been admitted to this excellent seminary, and from it the majority of the native officers employed by Government in the public departments of the northern province have been supplied.

Acting in concert with these extended operations, the printing establishment of the mission has been most actively occupied since the year 1833, and now gives constant employment to 82 workmen, chiefly educated in the mission schools and afterwards put in possession of a remunerative craft. From this press upwards of 50,000 volumes a-year are now issuing, chiefly educational and elementary, and down to the close of 1846, there had been printed at this single establishment 470,580 volumes, containing upwards of 134 millions of pages filled with sound and valuable information.

* Report, 1847, p. 7.

For a time the Government Commission of Education undertook the introduction of schools under its own management in the Jaffna Province; but witnessing the eminent success which attended the labours of the various missionaries there, and the spirit of Christian co-operation and mutual confidence in which they managed the educational affairs of the province by a joint Board at which the members of each mission has a seat; and satisfied that under such a system the funds for this purpose would be managed not only with greater economy but with greater advantage than in their own hands, the grants of the Legislative Council have since been confided, in proportion to their means of superintending them, to the Americans, the Methodists, and the Church of England missions at Jaffna, an arrangement, the result of which has been in the highest degree satisfactory.

As regards the operations of the Central School Commission, and its establishments in the other district of Ceylon, the result of the last year has proved interesting in an educational point of view in this respect, that it has clearly appeared in the course of it that English education has now been extended as far as there is a legitimate demand for it, thus leaving the Government free while it merely provides for the efficiency of the present English educational establishments to direct its efforts towards the extension of education in the vernacular language of the natives. In 1841, when the present School Commission was organized, there were found to be about 2,200 pupils in the Government schools, educated at an annual cost of 3,125*l*. There are now upwards of 6,000 pupils, educated at a cost of about 10,000*l*. Beyond this it does not appear possible to carry English education at present with a reasonable degree of economy, and the present scale of expenditure is so disproportionate to the results, that I am maturing arrangements for the introduction of a more economical, and I trust more advantageous system for the future extension of secular education. In the mean time, and under existing circumstances, more attention has been bestowed last year than at any former period on the native Normal Institution, and thirty vernacular schools taught by Singhalese youths who have been trained in that seminary, have been opened in various parts of the island, while fresh lads from villages where schools are wanted have been appointed to succeed those who had completed their course of training and gone out as masters. The prospect of this branch of the educational service may be reported as upon the whole favourable, but great difficulties have to be encountered chiefly in consequence of the extreme aversion of the Singhalese to everything that implies the least enterprise or self-denial. The extension of vernacular education by Government is also rendered somewhat delicate in consequence of the field being to a considerable extent occupied by missionary schools, which number throughout the island no fewer than 15,000 scholars, in consequence of which a good understanding with the various missionary bodies may be considered to be indispensable to success, for it has been found as the result of experience that Government schools, though conducted at a much greater expense, cannot compete successfully with missionary schools in the same field; so much more vigilant and influential is the superintendence of the missionaries than that of such persons as Government can call to its aid in this cause at village stations.

Central school
commission.

Vernacular educa-
tion.

In the course of the year, I have had occasion to regret the resignation of the Bishop of Colombo as President of the School Commission under circumstances which have been already fully communicated to your Lordship. But I am happy to add that his Lordship continues to visit the Government schools as formerly.

Auxiliary to the work of training vernacular teachers, considerable progress has also been made during the course of the year in preparing and publishing school books in the Singhalese language. A First Spelling Book and a First Reading Book, part of the impression of the latter being diglot, the English on the same page as the Singhalese, have been published, as also large Singhalese alphabets from wood blocks cut by one of the students of the native Normal Institution. Several other works are also in progress, of which may be particularly mentioned a Singhalese and English School Dictionary, a work of which the want has been hitherto very much felt, not less by Europeans who desire to acquaint themselves with the native language than by natives who desire to acquire English.

Publication of
educational works.

It is much to be regretted, however, that conflicting opinions exist as to what

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style of language and which of the dialects of Singhalese spoken by the natives ought to be adopted in printed works. The British and Foreign Bible Society are familiar with the controversy; and two versions of the sacred Scriptures are in existence, both provided by the funds of that great institution, the one by the Church of England, and the other by the Wesleyan missionaries; but though their respective presses are within six miles of each other, their respective versions are so different, and both of them apparently so unsatisfactory, that a youth who has been trained to the one cannot accommodate himself to the other, and a native, though very imperfectly acquainted with our language, finds that he understands the Bible better in English than in either.

SECTION II.

1. AGRICULTURE.

Rice.
Native coffee.

The year 1847 has been a momentous one as regards agricultural operations. For the cultivation of rice and other grain it was peculiarly favourable, owing to the seasonableness and abundance of the rains. The crop of native coffee, too, was more than usually heavy, and the export large; but so unremunerative is the present scale of prices for this article, that in some districts it was never picked, but allowed to drop neglected from the trees, the market value at Colombo not being sufficient to justify the charges for gathering and the carriage from a distance. Native coffee, which in 1840 was sold in London at prices varying from 90s. to 66s. for the lowest qualities, has fallen gradually year by year, till in 1847 the quotations ranged from 28s. to 21s., whilst the cost of transport has been augmented to the natives by competition with the European planter, and the increasing demand for bullock hire. I fear that this branch of native industry must, from many causes, remain much depressed for some time to come.

Coffee plantations.

Sir J. Emerson Tennent, in his Despatch of the 10th May, 1847, in transmitting the Blue Book Returns of 1846, particularized many of those incidents of soil and climate peculiar to coffee planting, which had begun in this year to create anxiety and uncertainty as to the amount of ultimate success likely to be attendant on the experiment of its introduction on a large scale into Ceylon; and he alluded at the same time to those circumstances connected with financial derangement at home, and consequent commercial embarrassment within the colony, which were beginning to cast a shade over the prospects of progress which had hitherto afforded encouragement to the planters. He expressed a hope, however, that, in consequence of the measures in progress for overcoming the difficulties of transport, by the construction of a railway, and the organization of a "Conveyance Company," coupled with the prospect of increased financial accommodation and improved prices for Ceylon produce at home, confidence would be restored, and planting operations resumed with their previous energy. This anticipation was formed at the commencement of 1847; but the close of the year did not realize the expectation then formed. The project of a railroad from Colombo to the interior, which was then in contemplation, was abandoned, owing to the impossibility of procuring the capital in England. The Conveyance Company was commenced; but from inadequate means, and the loss of cattle to an unforeseen extent, its affairs, after a few months' trial, were wound up, and the scheme abandoned, with a serious loss to the proprietors. Capital, instead of becoming more abundant, flowed in much diminished quantity into the colony, owing to the financial revolution in England; and from the same causes the prices of coffee, instead of continuing to improve, as they appeared likely to do at the beginning of 1847, took an opposite direction, and sunk to an unremunerating level before the close of the year. The result has been that which naturally follows from such a combination of causes; little extension of coffee cultivation has taken place since 1845; Crown lands suitable to its growth have ceased to be in demand; and those already in the hands of speculators, and which at the close of 1845 were readily purchased at advanced prices, ranging from 3*l.* 10*s.* to 5*l.* 10*s.* an acre, are at the present moment entirely unsaleable. Numerous estates in inferior situations have been either wholly or partially abandoned; and even those in favourite localities have changed hands at almost nominal rates, when the late

Railroad abandoned.

Conveyance Company dissolved.

Present position.

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proprietors have been compelled to part with them, owing to the withdrawal or curtailment of financial accommodation.

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Your Lordship will perceive that what I have here pointed to is to a great extent the result of external causes and of commercial distress in its operation on the planting interest, independently of any disappointment immediately arising out of the failure of planting operations. The wholesale commerce of Ceylon has, in fact, been a greater sufferer during the last two years than at any period of the previous ten. Native coffee and cinnamon, the principal articles in which remittances were formerly made by the merchants here to their English correspondents, have been shipped at increasing loss; and cocoanut oil, the only staple commodity which was formerly profitable as a shipment to Europe, has lately been confined to but one or two firms, representing English houses of large capital. Under these circumstances, combined with disturbing causes at home, consignments from England have been suspended or greatly curtailed, and mercantile operations of every description contracted within the narrowest limits. But the houses which have suffered most are those whose capital, in anticipation of agency and commission on the crops, had been employed in advances to the proprietors of coffee estates, by which means the funds which ought to have been at liberty for commercial operations have become fixed in plantations (many of them of no value), or converted into dead loans on mortgage. Much practical inconvenience has resulted from this hazardous practice of advances on cultivation, to which no prudence can foresee or caution apply a limit. Further advances have to be made as a matter of necessity to avert the loss of the first, till in some cases the lender becomes as embarrassed as the borrower, and instances have come to light in connexion with a considerable mercantile house recently in the "Gazette," in which the firm had been compelled before their final suspension to borrow at *twelve* per cent., assigning as security their own liens on estates which had been previously mortgaged to themselves at *seven*.

Effects of commercial embarrassment.

System of advances on estates.

The more recent precaution of making advances not on the land, but against the forthcoming crops, has not been found in practice to afford a much more effectual security. Prices fall, and the crops are liable to uncertainty and deficiency, from many unexpected calamities; the wind loosens the roots and barks the young plants; the rains, when unseasonable, prevent the possibility of saving the crop in a fit state for market; the rats injure the trees,* or the bug† the berries; the coolies are too few to meet the demand for labour, or the bandies too scarce to afford the necessary transit; and from each, or a combination of one or more of these disasters, the receipts are deficient, and the merchant who relied on them disappointed of the proceeds, but left with no other alternative than further advances to prevent absolute loss.

Its pernicious effect.

Some large estates which had been opened and supported by capital so supplied have recently been brought to the hammer, owing to the impossibility of continuing this accommodation, and two of the most considerable mercantile houses, each connected with between 30 and 40 plantations, have become bankrupts. Mortgagees in numerous instances are in possession of the properties on which they had made advances, and are now constrained, in order to avoid a sale during the prevalence of universal depression, to carry them on on their own account, at whatever present inconvenience or risk of ultimate failure.

For this state of things, so far as it is produced by external causes, relief must be looked for in the restoration of commercial confidence at home, followed by a freer influx of capital into the colony, and the return of prices for produce, if not to the standard of 1845, at least to such a scale of remuneration as will enable the planter to carry on his operations with ease and satisfaction.

But even with ample improvement in these particulars, much uncertainty will still remain for a time as to the ultimate success of planting in Ceylon, and the adaptation of its soil, its climate, and other essentials, for the profitable cultivation of coffee.

As regards soil, much of the coffee district is formed of a metamorphic silicious rock, containing large quantities of mica, and this, when decomposed, yields little but sand or almost unproductive earth. Covering this, and mingling with its surface is a proportion of alluvium and decomposed vegetable matter,

Soil.

* See *post*, p. 273.† *Ibid.*, p. 273.

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more or less plentiful, as it has been washed away from the acclivities or collected in the hollows below. Estates which have been opened on soil of this meagre description (and they are many), at whatever altitude, have more or less disappointed expectation, and the greater number have been abandoned wholly or in portions. But in other tracts, where the predominant ingredient of the rock is feldspar, there results from its decomposition a fertile soil and one highly retentive of moisture, and where this primary essential is combined with an altitude of from 3000 to 4500 feet, a sheltered aspect and exposure to the rains and sun, there is the best security against failure, so far as the ordinary course of nature is concerned.

One cause of partial disappointment, however, even in such situations, during the past year, was the untimely continuance of the periodical rains into a period when dry weather is usually relied on for saving the crop and transmitting it to the coast for shipment. But more obvious explanations of the causes of disappointment, where it has been encountered, will be found in the want of judgment and the disregard of economy with which the majority of estates were originally opened.

Want of economy
in the original
opening of estates.

Eight or ten years ago, when coffee planting had become a mania amongst the civil and military officers in Ceylon, and when capitalists from England and India were eagerly investing their funds in land for its cultivation, prices were so high in the London market, reaching 120s. for what now seldom brings 50s., that every intermediate outlay was looked upon as a bagatelle compared with the prodigious profits which were speedily to be realized by the sale of the produce on such terms. The result was, a more than oriental extravagance in every item of expenditure, and a wild race of competition as to who would first have their estates in bearing, which raised the wages of labour and the cost of every article of consumption to a pitch actually absurd. Those whose official avocations prevented their giving all their time and attention to their estates, engaged as their superintendents, at excessive salaries, men who had never seen a tree planted, or a crop of coffee prepared for market. Soldiers, whose discharge was purchased from the ranks, were sent up to the interior to manage plantations on salaries of 300*l.* and 400*l.* per annum; horses for their use were purchased by the agents at excessive prices, and their style of living, wines and expenditure of every description, were on a scale of the most absurd profusion; whilst the proprietors were mortgaging every available security, and raising money at 9 and 10 per cent. to support this expenditure, buoyed up by the confident expectation that the first golden harvest would reimburse every outlay, and leave them in possession of a splendid and permanent income.

Of course there were exceptions to the prevailing practice; many gentlemen conducted their estates with prudence, and working them on their own capital; these have been brought into cultivation under proper management, and continue to be a safe investment. Others, but they were very few, took advantage of the moment, and disposed of their own speculations at prodigious profits; but the great majority, intent on the future, declined all reasonable offers, and held on their own course. Even the reduction of the protective duty in England in 1844 did not discourage expenditure; and the first check to this career was applied by the commercial reverses at home in the year 1845-6, when the supplies of capital to the colony were suddenly stopped, and merchants and agents at Colombo affected by the same cause, were constrained to contract their accommodation, or altogether suspend their advances. Expenditure was now necessarily reduced on the estates, but not till the vast majority of them had become chargeable with liabilities and mortgages bearing interest at inconvenient rates; superintendents were dismissed, and their salaries cut down to a more rational sum, and attempts were made, but too late to be effectual, to reduce the high wages of coolies and bullock drivers, who had now become indispensable to the plantations, and successfully combined to resist every effort to bring down their wages below the standard to which the insane competition amongst the planters themselves had originally raised them.

Recent depression.

In the mean time prices rapidly fell in England, and many estates, where the quantity of the produce was too scanty to pay expenses at the reduced rates, were abandoned entirely, and others, whose proprietors were too embarrassed to carry them on, were forced into the market, but owing to the general

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panic and depression, such as were sold, failed to realize more than nominal prices.

This was the general aspect of affairs throughout 1847; but in the course of that year some new and unexpected discouragements from natural causes arose to disconcert the prospects of the planters. Rats appeared suddenly, and for the first time, amongst some of the highest and most productive plantations; no reasonable conjectures could satisfactorily account for their coming; but the most probable was, that the long continuance of the rains had rotted the nillo and other plants on which they were accustomed to feed, and they issued out of the jungle in prodigious numbers to attack the coffee trees, from which they gnawed off the young fruit bearing branches; but singularly enough they seemed not to be in quest of the berries, but of the pith of the plant, which contains a small proportion of farina. Rats.

Another and still more formidable visitor was "the bug," as it is called, a species of coccus; not unfrequent in the forests, and found on numerous other plants besides the coffee tree; but on it they settled in formidable numbers, covering every stem and twig with their scales, extending over large areas of estates, and in some cases pervading the entire plantation. The effects are most serious. The bug insinuates itself amongst the buds and young stems which attach the fruit in clusters to the branch, and inserting its proboscis extracts the juice, so attenuating the tree and corrupting its sap, that its leaves become covered with a small black fungus or *antennaria*, and its berries first wither and decline, and then fall discoloured and decayed to the ground. In this manner breadths of plantations, which have yielded from 10 to 16 cwt. an acre, have failed in the succeeding year to yield a single pound of sound coffee, and whole estates have had the crop reduced to one-third or even less. The coffee bug.

This calamity, I regret to say, is extending; and so seriously do I regard it, that I have directed Dr. Gardener, the Superintendent of the Royal Botanic Garden at Peradenia, to make a visit to the coffee districts, in order to examine the estates which are infested by the bug, and furnish to me a report on its history and habits; together with his opinion as to the means of remedying its injuries, and checking its extension.

But apart from these casualties, and temporary or partial discouragements, the future and its promise must be a matter of much solicitude to those interested in this important branch of our colonial industry. Whatever improvement may take place in the present depressed prices of coffee at home, its producers must be prepared to accommodate themselves to the obvious tendency downwards, which has of late years affected the value of every article of consumption, and is likely to prevail for an indefinite time to come. To unfavourably-circumstanced estates, defective either in quantity of produce or quality of the crop this seems to be impossible; and the probabilities are, that the process of abandonment must proceed, and at least one-third of the inferior plantations will be thrown out of cultivation. The rapid increase of production is itself hastening this event. The probable consumption of Great Britain has been estimated at above 37 millions of pounds; and your Lordship will perceive by the returns now sent, that close upon 33 millions were this year exported from Ceylon. So soon, therefore, as the demand in England shall have been satisfied, our surplus supply must seek a market on the Continent, and necessarily fall to the level of continental prices for coffee. Protection under such circumstances must become unavailing; and even at present the prices for the native coffee of Ceylon have so nearly approached to the level of the Continent, that shipments both in the last year and the one preceding have been made to France by the way of Pondicherry, and orders have this year been received for increased quantities to be sent to the same market. Future prospects.

At such a conjuncture, the only question to be determined is, as to the lowest possible cost at which coffee can be raised and shipped from Ceylon, and whether this will be remunerative as compared with the reduced prices at which it is likely to enter into consumption. Much uncertainty still prevails as to a satisfactory solution of this important inquiry: experience and recent improvements have shown that an important saving of expenditure may be effected in many directions; but as these, to be efficacious, must take effect from the first opening of an estate, their introduction into plantations already in bearing is impracticable, unless at a sacrifice too serious to be admissible. Enforcement of economy.

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It seems equally unlikely that capital borrowed at extravagant interest of 9 and 10 per cent. to be invested in coffee, should be capable of yielding such a return as to leave a remunerative profit after discharging this first liability : such estates must eventually pass into the hands of more prudent proprietors, prepared to invest their own funds, and conduct their outlay under their own management, dispensing with the very questionable assistance of inexperienced superintendents at disproportionate salaries. Expenditure under every head is still capable of extensive reductions, and the rates of labour which are now equal to three times the actual consumption of the labourer, who hoards the difference, must necessarily be brought down to a scale more in harmony with the prevailing value of the produce which he raises. The wages of artisans and carriers which had been raised to an unreasonable height by the foolish eagerness of the planters in their competition to be first in the opening of estates ; are already exhibiting a desirable decline, owing to the diminished demand for mechanics, and the inability of the planters to comply with the unreasonable charges of the bandy-drivers and owners of bullocks. Already, too, the houses of agency in Colombo are reducing their charges for the cleaning and the packing of the coffee, and with this a reduction on the commission on outlay and shipping, added to diminution of expenditure under the heads I have particularized and others ; there can be no reasonable doubt that coffee may be raised in Ceylon to a satisfactory profit in situations combining the natural essentials to its production. Lands of this description, and suitable in every respect are to be had to almost any extent ; of those already sold by the Government, about 60,000 acres have been planted out of 400,000, which have passed into private hands : and with respect to these it may be stated universally, that the least valuable and productive portions are those now under cultivation ; the reserved portions being generally the highest and last reached, though in every particular the best suited to the plant.

Appendix No. 1.

Coffee cultivation
still a safe invest-
ment.

On the whole, my Lord, after anxious enquiry into this important subject, aided by the most experienced informants to whom I could address myself, I can come to no other conclusion than that the instances of failure which it has been my duty to report are but the natural results of indiscretion or inexperience, and do not exceed the amount of disappointment which might naturally have been looked for in an experiment so new and so extensive ; whilst the more satisfactory results under favourable circumstances and judicious management leave no reasonable doubt, that Ceylon possesses every essential for a successful cultivation of coffee, and that its prosecution may safely be regarded, if not as the enriching speculation which it was at one time imagined, at least as a safe and remunerative investment for men of rational expectations, and who are prepared to conduct their operations with economy and ordinary prudence.

Former extravagant
management.

Soil.

Sugar.—I regret to be still unable to report satisfactorily of the experiment of sugar-planting. No extension has taken place during the last year, but, on the contrary, one large estate has been finally abandoned, and another suspended its cultivation for a time, but is at present putting in fresh canes and trying a new system of management with the use of manures. To a great extent, the same indiscreet expenditure which has led to the embarrassment of coffee proprietors was pursued for a time by the planters of sugar, with some exceptions. Plantations so opened have either been deserted or have changed hands, and some of those which have so passed under a new proprietary for a trifling sum are now worked on a reduced scale of outlay, and are said to be remunerative and promising. The poverty of the soil seems to be the great obstacle to success, when taken in connexion with the difficulty of procuring manure, in a country where cattle are so sparingly reared. And in some parts of the low country, where the quality of the soil is rich and fertile, the rarity and uncertainty of the rains render the cultivation hazardous.

Sugar from native
trees.

Some of the planters, however, with West Indian experience, speak sanguinely of success, and pronounce the alluvial soil in parts of the southern and western provinces to be fully as suitable as that of other sugar-growing islands : and, looking to the probable influence of political events upon prices at home, hopes are still high as to the eventual result of the experiment.

In the interior of Ceylon the natives use sugar freely, but draw their own supplies exclusively from the two species of palm-trees which are indigenous

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to Ceylon, and yield it in abundance: these are the Palmyra,* from which jaggery is largely extracted on the continent of India, and the Kittool,† which is the favourite tree for the same purposes in Ceylon. The Palmyra is chiefly grown in Jaffna and the north, the Kittool throughout the rest of the island; the latter yields a rich syrop capable of high refinement, but used by the Singhalese in the first stage of crystallization, when it is sold for something more than one penny per lb. As the trees are already numerous and capable of infinite extension, and each is susceptible of yielding 2 lbs. of sugar per diem for two months in a year, (the ordinary period during which the jaggery is drawn off,) it is clear that a valuable trade might be established in this article, which, when refined, would command a price equal to that of cane sugar; but such is the apathetic disposition of the natives, and the difficulty of urging them in any new direction different from their ancient customs, that no prospect exists at present of attempting such a measure on a large scale.

Cocoa-nut Plantations.—Sir J. Emerson Tennent, in his Despatch with the Blue Book for 1846, called your Lordship's attention to the recent extension of cocoa-nut plantations in the maritime provinces; and subsequent observation confirms the justice of his remarks as to its great importance and the probability of its becoming, if it is not already, "one of the safest investments in Ceylon."

The utility of this remarkable tree, and the infinitude of purposes to which it is converted by the natives, have naturally attracted the attention of speculators to its cultivation even as an article of internal consumption, irrespective of any foreign demand for the coir and oil, which it yields in great abundance. No one portion of the tree is destitute of important uses,—its timber for building, its leaves for thatch, their stems for fencing, the nuts for food and light, and the coir or fibre which envelopes them in the husk is manufactured into the ropes and cordage of all others the best suited to the climate.

The cocoa-nut palm, of which there are five varieties in the island, though all I believe of the same species, grows freely in the low country, but only yields in perfection in the vicinity of the sea, and in situations which afford abundance of water and a light and permeable soil. At the close of the last session of the Legislative Council, Sir J. Emerson Tennent made a visit to the districts on the east and north of the island, where the most extensive plantations have recently been opened; and from a narrative of his journey, I beg to submit to your Lordship the following account of the remarkable formations which afford the most favourable soil and circumstances for the growth of this important tree, and which are common to both the eastern and western coasts of Ceylon:—

"The rivers, which flow east and west on both sides of the island, are met at their junction with the ocean by a powerful current which flows from the north; and all their deposits, instead of being carried directly out to sea, are heaped up in the form of immense bars and sand-banks, which gradually extend towards the south, and force the rivers to turn in that direction in order to find an outlet. The formation of these bars when once commenced proceeds with great rapidity, owing to the accumulation of sand thrown up during the monsoons, when a furious surf beats full upon the shore for many months uninterruptedly, till at last a long stripe of land is formed which stretches from north to south, behind which the river bends, forming a narrow lake varying from a quarter of a mile to two or three miles broad, and sometimes extending for 20 miles along the shore between the mainland and the new marine formation. Occasionally, the violence of the monsoon drives in such quantities of sand and fresh deposit as to close up the ordinary embouchure of these channels, and the river, swollen by its confinement, breaks a fresh opening for itself in some other direction, and not unfrequently leaves its ancient channel converted into an absolute lake without any opening whatsoever.

"In process of time these sand-banks become covered with vegetable life; herbaceous plants, shrubs, and, finally, trees peculiar to saline soils successively make their appearance; and, as these decay, their decomposition degenerates a sufficiency of soil when mixed with the upper coating of sand to sustain continued vegetation. The process of this conversion may be seen

CEYLON.

The Palmyra plant.

The Kittool.

Singular utility of the cocoa-nut palm.

Remarkable geological formations.

* *Borassus flabelliformis*.† *Caryita urens*.

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“ in all its stages at various points of the coast. The margin of sand nearest “ to the water is first taken possession of by some saline grasses and succulent “ plants, such as the glassworts,¹ which are provided with penetrating and “ tenacious roots; and a breakwater, as it were, being thus secured, the drier “ sand above is next seized upon by the goat's-foot convolvulus,² which seems “ to be always the first to make its appearance. It covers the surface with its “ purple flowers, and its procumbent branches shooting in all directions send “ down roots from every joint that serve to give the sand its first solidity. “ Along with the convolvulus grows a creeping bean with large pods,³ a fleshy “ plant called Moodoo-gaeta-kola by the natives,⁴ a species of aristotochia,⁵ “ and a strong coarse grass called Moharawana,⁶ some crotolarias,⁷ and the “ Sayan mal or choya,⁸ which is used as a substitute for madder. All these “ have creeping roots, and, striking them directly downwards, they prevent the “ sand from being displaced by the wind. The bank thus protected from the “ action of the air above and of the water at its base, other herbaceous plants “ soon cover it in quick succession, and give the entire surface its first dense “ carpet of vegetation.

“ In the next stage low shrubs make their appearance, their seed being “ drifted by the waves, and taking ready root when they rest. The foremost “ of these are the mangroves, of which there are five or six varieties on this “ coast,⁹ all growing luxuriantly within the actual wash of the sea; whilst, a “ little retired from the influence of the tides, the undisturbed and marshy “ spots are covered with tamarisks,¹⁰ acanthus,¹¹ and several varieties of “ Hebeiscus, and the dry sands above are taken possession of by acacias, “ *salvadora Persica* (the true mustard-tree of Scripture), which here attains a “ height of 40 feet, ixoras, and the numerous family of cassias.

“ Lastly, after a sufficiency of earth has been formed by frequent successions “ of their less important predecessors, the ground becomes covered by trees of “ ampler magnitude, most of which are found upon the adjacent shore of the “ main land; the Margosa,¹² from whose seed the natives express a valuable “ oil; the *Timbiri*,¹³ with whose glutinous nuts the fishermen bark their nets; “ the cashu nut;¹⁴ the *Palu*, one of the most valuable timber trees of the “ northern province; and the wood apple,¹⁵ whose fruit is regarded by the “ Singhalese as an unfailing specific for dysentery.

“ But the most important fact connected with these recently-formed portions “ of land is their extraordinary suitability for the growth of the cocoa-nut, “ which affects the sea air, and never succeeds at any distance from it; and “ which at the same time requires a light and sandy situation, and the constant “ presence of water in large quantities. All these essentials are combined in “ the sea belts I have described, lying as they do between the ocean on the one “ side and the fresh-water lakes formed by the great rivers on the other, and “ presenting every requisite of soil and surface. It is along a sand formation “ of this description, about 40 miles long, and from one to three miles broad, “ that the recent thriving cocoa-nut plantations have been commenced at “ Batticaloa. At Calpentyn, on the western coast, a similar formation has “ been taken advantage of for the same purpose. At Jaffna the same pecu- “ liarities of soil and locality have been equally seized on for this promising “ cultivation; and generally along the whole sea border of Ceylon to the south “ and west, the shore, for the breadth of one or two miles, exhibits one almost “ continuous grove of the cocoa-nut palms.”

Recent extension of
cocoa-nut planting.

The recent formation of cocoa-nut estates has taken place chiefly in the northern and eastern provinces, where the population is rare and the lands unoccupied; but towards the west and south some flourishing plantations have been simultaneously opened by Europeans. In round numbers it may be said that 20,000 acres have been surveyed and sold for cocoa-nut planting at Batticaloa and Jaffna within the last five years, of which more than one-half is already planted, and the rest in progress; and on the western coast, at

¹ *Salicornia Indica*, and *S. brachtiata*.

² *Convolvulus pes capri*.

³ *Canavalia obtusifolia*.

⁴ *Hydrophalax maritima*.

⁵ *A. bracteata*.

⁶ *Spinifex squarrosus*.

⁷ *Crotolaria herniarioides*.

⁸ *Hedyotis umbellata*.

⁹ These belong to the genera *Rhizophora*, *Kandelia*, and *Bruguiera*.

¹⁰ *Tamarix Indica*.

¹¹ *Dilivaria ilicifolia*.

¹² *Azadirachta Indica*.

¹³ *Diaspyros embriopteris*.

¹⁴ *Anacardium occidentale*.

¹⁵ *Feronia elephantum*.

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Calpenty, similarly extensive tracts are in process of cultivation. In every locality it has been found that, on leaving the white sand of the sea-shore, and reaching the darker coloured soil even a little inland, the growth of the tree exhibits a marked decline. Wells, which are indispensable, can be easily dug, and water found in the one locality at a maximum depth of 14 feet, whilst in the other they require to be sunk to 20, and even further before it is reached; and plants after two years' growth attain a height of 12 feet on the white sand, and but six or seven on the red.

Superiority of the white soil.

In preparing nurseries for new estates the nuts are placed in squares of 400, covered with one inch of sand or salt mud, and watered daily till the young shoots appear, when they are planted out in September after the rains. They are put in the ground from 20 to 30 feet apart, so that from 50 to 70 are sufficient for an acre; for when too thickly planted the fruit is defective both in size and quantity. They require to be well manured with sea-weed or salt mud, and watered regularly for the first two years. The loss on the first year's plants from beetles, elephants, and wild hogs, may be taken at 25 per cent., which must of course be re-planted, and the ground between the plants should be kept carefully ploughed and watered till the trees are sufficiently matured to dispense with this encouragement.

Method of planting.

Seed and nurseries.

Watering.

In forced ground the flower stock may be expected about the fifth year; but as a fair average the first crop may be looked for in the seventh or eighth. The fruit ripens in about 12 months, and 60 nuts may be assumed as a fair yield for each tree, and fewer in proportion to their greater size. The ordinary calculation is, that 1000 full grown nuts will yield 525 lbs. of copperah, (or kernel dried for crushing,) capable of producing 25 gallons of cocoa-nut oil.

Produce.

The wages of labour and the cost of other essentials, differ materially in the respective districts of Jaffna and Batticaloa; as well as the system of planting and the number of trees to an acre; and I have obtained the following estimates of expenditure and returns, as they are ordinarily calculated at each.

ESTIMATE for 100 ACRES at BATTICALOA.

Estimate of cost and produce at Batticaloa.

1st year—	£.
Land	110
Felling	125
Grubbing	125
Fencing	30
Nuts	40
Draining	20
Tools	10
Buildings	50
Planting	20
2nd year	150
3rd year	150
4th year	50
5th year	50
Superintendence, 5 years	500
Expenses	80
Total in five years	1,510

The produce, calculating 90 trees to an acre and 75 nuts to a tree, sold at 2l. per 1000, would yield 675,000 nuts, worth 1350l.; or, if converted into oil, calculating 30 nuts to give one gallon, it would produce 22,500 gallons, or about 90 tons from 100 acres.

On the other hand, the planters of Jaffna, admitting the general correctness of the estimate of expenditure as founded on experience in the Batticaloa district, object to the calculation of produce as more than is warranted by their own observation; and substitute the following as the practical result of their own operations.

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Estimate of cost
and produce at
Jaffna.

CALCULATION of the Cost of 100 ACRES of LAND, and planting the same with Cocoa-nuts,
till the end of the 5th year.

	£.	s.	d.
Cost of 100 acres of land at 1 <i>l.</i> per acre	100	0	0
Surveying fees and cutting boundaries	20	0	0
Clearing and grubbing land for the plough	150	0	0
Fencing, say for three miles	15	0	0
Nuts for plants (6000)	25	0	0
Tools, 10 <i>l.</i> ; plough, 16 <i>l.</i> , cattle, 32 <i>l.</i> ; carts, 10 <i>l.</i>	68	0	0
Tanks or Wells	37	10	0
Buildings	10	0	0
Planting	5	0	0
Overseer	24	0	0
Total, 1st year	454	10	0
2nd year—			
Ploughing twice, at 1 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> per acre each	15	0	0
Watering; 12 men; 6 months	36	0	0
Repairing fences	5	0	0
Manuring with salt, mud, &c.	18	0	0
Supplying vacancies	10	0	0
Overseers	24	0	0
Total	108	0	0
3rd year—			
The same as second	108	0	0
4th year—			
Ploughing	15	0	0
Repairing fences	5	0	0
Manuring	18	0	0
Overseers	24	0	0
Total	62	0	0
5th year—			
The same	62	0	0
Total, 5 years	794	10	0

ESTIMATE of the RETURN on 100 ACRES of COCOA-NUT LAND, when in full bearing in the
Northern province of Ceylon.

100 acres of land planted at 27 feet apart gives about 58 trees per acre, or 5800 trees.

1 tree	60 nuts
58 trees	3,480 „
100 acres	348,000 „

Which at 2*l.* per 1000 is equal to 796*l.* per 100 acres, or 8*l.* per acre, if sold on the spot.

If made into Oil.

348,000 nuts, give at 40 nuts per imperial gallon
8,700 imperial gallons of oil at 2*s.* per gallon.
Naked, 8*l.* 14*s.* per acre.
Poonack will pay the expense of making the oil.

If shipped to England at the present time, the selling price there is 55*s.* per cwt., measuring 12 imperial gallons, say 4*s.* 7*d.* per gallon, and it can be sent home and sold for 23*s.*, it would leave 3*s.* per gallon, or 13*l.* per acre.

On the whole, my Lord, I look on these plantations as an operation of the utmost value to the colony, whether with reference to internal consumption or with regard to an export of the produce; and I shall not fail to watch over their progress with an anxious desire to extend to their projectors every reasonable encouragement and facility.

During the year 1847, the external trade in the produce of the cocoa-nut palm has steadily increased. The export of the oil was—

In 1846	£ 7,939
In 1847	18,341

Increase of the
trade in cocoa-nut
produce.

And its price rose from 37*l.* per ton, the average of 1845-6 to 50*l.*, the average of 1846-7.

The coir for ropes and cordage was—

In 1846	£8,724
In 1847	10,220

The export of the nuts in their natural state has declined ; a consequence of the use of a larger quantity for purposes of manufacture ; as well as an evidence of increased consumption by the Singhalese themselves.

Cinnamon.—I have no reason to doubt the general and concurrent testimony brought frequently before me that at the present moment and for some time past the cultivation and sale of cinnamon have been carried on at a loss. Even at the apparently low price for which the Government cinnamon gardens were sold, their purchasers have, in almost every instance, failed to realize a profit, the great increase in the quantity produced under their management, followed unfortunately by an equally great decline in the demand, owing to the derangement of commercial affairs in the Spanish Peninsula and the South American States, (the great consumers of the spice) having prevented them in most cases from realizing interest for their capital, and in many, involved the new proprietor in actual loss. There are, however, exceptions, where the article produced is of the finest quality, and where long experience and judgment have been brought to bear on its preparation. Strange and contradictory as it must seem to those not familiar with the peculiarities of the cinnamon trade, notwithstanding this universal depression of prices and losses on shipment, and although it was known in the early part of the year that the duty on its export was about to be reduced by 66 per cent. in September next, the exports of cinnamon during 1847 were greater by 1,400 bales than those of 1846, the value being in—

Depression of the trade.

Increased export in Colony.

1846	£40,162
1847	44,736

This result, so different from what might have been anticipated under the circumstances, is traceable, however, to distinct considerations and causes. First, from the pressure of the times, which rendered it impracticable for almost any of the merchants to hold back any but the very lowest qualities, so important was it to obtain advances to carry on the cultivation, and so difficult to obtain them ; and, secondly, an impression prevailed in the trade that so much spice would go home immediately after the reduction of the export duty as would create a fatal glut in the English market, and a consequent depression of value ; and this belief induced many to ship who would otherwise have held over.

Its causes.

This state of things warrants an apprehension on my part, that the present discouragement and neglect of the gardens, followed as it will of course be by want of care and imperfect preparation, will lead to a reduced production and deterioration in the quality of cinnamon during the next year or eighteen months, and that little, if any, wild cinnamon will, at first at least, be cut in the jungle and forests, as advances are always required for this trade, and financial affairs are not favourable for any extensive arrangements of this nature at present. But although from these temporary causes the cultivation and export may not exhibit so large or so sudden an extension on the reduction of the export duty, I have no reason to doubt that the effect will be at once apparent, and permanently beneficial, although the difficulty of placing a tax upon wild cinnamon equivalent to any amount of land-tax which might be imposed on its cultivation in gardens, may possibly give it an undue advantage in the home market, which will not be entirely balanced by its inferior quality.

Prospects.

In my Despatch of the 13th December, 1847, No. 175, soliciting your Lordship's sanction for the Customs Ordinance then passed, and which has since received Her Majesty's confirmation, by which, amongst other provisions, the export duty on cinnamon was reduced from 1*s.* to 4*d.* per lb., I took occasion to observe, that from sound information then in my possession, " I had reason " to believe that cinnamon could not be grown in Ceylon and delivered in " London, including the 1*s.* export duty, and all other charges under 2*s.* 3*d.* or

Calculation of cost of production.

"2s. 4d. per lb., without including any profit on the outlay, interest of money "or rent of the estate." After the 1st September next, when the reduced duty will come into force, it is expected that plantation spice may be put on board, the new duty of 4d. included, at 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d. on an average of all qualities. To this must be added 6½d. for all charges until it reaches the buyer at home, and ½d. for dryage and waste. It should therefore sell at home for 1s. 11d. or 2s. 1d. to clear prime cost; and as a less profit than 2½d. or 3d. would hardly remunerate the care of growing it, it should command a price from 2s. 2d. to 2s. 4d. at the new rate.

For some time past the average selling price of seconds (which really represent the average value of all kinds) has been 2s. 6d., a price which has left a loss to those in whose gardens thirds bear a large proportion, and could only remunerate those whose plantations produce largely of first and second qualities.

Cinnamon oil.

The intention announced of abolishing the export duty on cinnamon oil has already given an impulse to its manufacture, much spice of a coarse description, almost unsaleable at present prices, being now converted into oil, a branch of trade which had of late years been much neglected.

Areca Nuts.—A very considerable export of these articles, the fruit of a beautiful description of palm,* is carried on principally to the coast of India, where they contribute to the filthy luxury of chewing betel, the leaf of the latter being wrapped round the powdered areca nut, and mixed with a pinch of burnt lime to add to its acidity. The appearance of the natives when indulging in this stimulant, which they do almost without intermission, is as if the lips and mouth were covered with blood. The value of the export of areca nuts has been steadily increasing for the last few years. It was in

Export.

1844	.	.	.	£21,162
1845	.	.	.	32,684
1846	.	.	.	34,326
1847	.	.	.	36,807

The cultivation and export is exclusively in the hands of natives.

In the cultivation of the other articles particularized in the Despatch of last year no material change has taken place.

Cotton is cultivated, but not in sufficient quantity to supply the consumption of the colony, though there can be little doubt of the entire suitability of large tracts to its production on an extensive scale.

Wild plantain fibre.

In *Hemp* some experiments have been made, and with success, to prepare a fibre from the plant which yields it in such abundance in Manilla, the *Musa textilis*. Some time ago a gentleman connected with Ceylon, being struck with the value of this article to the Spanish colony, whence its exports command 35*l.* per ton in the English market, transmitted some of the plants to Ceylon; but on their arrival they proved to be *the wild plantain*, which already abounds in all parts of the island. The natives are not unacquainted with its properties, but have long used its fibre for the purposes of cordage and the weaving of coarse cloths. It grows freely in the altitudes suitable for coffee, and appears to spring up spontaneously on neglected estates. The experiment of preparing hemp from it on a small scale has been successful, and some specimens have been sent home to test their probable favour in England. If approved of, the export might take place to almost any extent.

Pine-apple flax.

The fibres of the pine apple, which grows profusely in Ceylon, have long been used in Manilla for the weaving of the very finest description of cloth, equal to French cambric prepared from flax. Attention has not yet been turned to this article in Ceylon.

Other fibrous plants.

Many other plants are used here for the preparation of cordage, several in the maritime provinces being especially suited for making fishing-lines and nets,† and others in the interior for twine and coarse thread. ‡

Agriculture in Ceylon.

As an art, agriculture may be said to be unknown in any part of Ceylon, except amongst the Tamul population of Jaffna and the north. The Singhalese in the rest of the island raise their rice by irrigated fields, and their dry grain by burning down patches in the jungle; but in neither case is the land turned to the best advantage; and as regards the first, their favourite crop, so invete-

* Areka catéchu.

† *Urtica verrucosa*, *Ichno-carpus paniculata*.‡ *Sansieria Ceylanica*, *Crotolaria juncea*.

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rate is habit, that in some large districts they permit the weeds to grow rankly amongst the rice, acknowledging the injury produced, but reconciling themselves to it, by explaining that in their district it has been the practice from time immemorial to allow the weeds to grow, and they cannot depart from the custom of their fathers.

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Inveteracy of habit.

In Jaffna every cultivated spot is securely fenced; and as there are no hills and no rivers, the inhabitants would be helplessly dependent on the periodical rains, had they not dug one well or more in every field, and by incessant watering they succeed in obtaining a third harvest in each year, instead of two as formerly, one after each monsoon. For home consumption they grow an innumerable variety of fruit and vegetables, almost unknown in the rest of the island—melons, gourds, brinjals, yams, cassava, country cabbage, and many others; and for trade and export, in addition to their great staple, tobacco, which is the finest in the east, they produce grain of all kinds, and curry stuffs, especially onions and chillies, for shipment to India. as well as the coast of Ceylon. The value of the tobacco exported was in

High state of agricultural science at Jaffna.

1843	.	.	.	£12,518
1844	.	.	.	17,549
1845	.	.	.	17,189
1846	.	.	.	16,561
and in 1847	.	.	.	17,741

Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradenia.—During the past year the progress of this establishment, under the able management of Dr. Gardner, has been very satisfactory, both as regards its improved appearance, and its usefulness to the colony. Though the demand for plants and seeds has been somewhat less than during the two previous years, yet it has not declined to the extent which might have been expected from the present depressed state of agricultural affairs. It is, however, worthy of remark, that the natives are now applying more frequently than formerly for both exotic vegetable seeds, plants, and fruit-trees, following, no doubt, the example which has been given to them by the European settlers in the country. This fact is the first encouraging evidence I have seen of any disposition on their part to depart from the routine of their fathers, or any desire to adopt better systems of agriculture or gardening, when better examples and increased facilities are held out to them.

In the course of an excursion which the Superintendent lately made round the northern parts of the island, in the company of the Colonial Secretary; he added considerably to our knowledge of its natural vegetable productions, and was enabled to make many valuable observations on the soils of the different parts visited, and the effects which they and climate combined are likely to produce on vegetation generally. Besides keeping up, as formerly, an extensive nursery for the propagation and dispersion through the island of useful plants, he has been enabled to introduce several new descriptions, among which there is one in particular which may ultimately prove of some advantage to the colony in a commercial point of view.

New plants.

The Vanilla.—Until within the last few years the vanilla plant, which is so extensively cultivated in Mexico, could not be made to produce its valuable aromatic pods in other countries, although the plants were found to grow luxuriantly, and to exhibit abundance of flowers. The cause of this was discovered by Professor Morren, of Liege, while experimenting on some plants in the Botanic Garden of that place, in the year 1836. He found that, owing to some peculiarities in the reproductive organs, artificial fecundation is required; and attributes the fecundation of the plant in Mexico to the action of some insect which frequents the flower. The absence of this must be considered to be the cause of the non-production of fruit in those plants which have been removed to other countries.

Since the publication of Professor Morren's paper on this subject, attempts have been made to cultivate the plant at Bourbon and the Mauritius, and report speaks favourably of the success of the experiment. Wishing to try how the plant would answer in Ceylon, I obtained a few months ago two boxes of plants from the Royal Botanic Gardens at Mauritius, more than half of which arrived alive, and are now growing vigorously at Peradenia. As the first object of Dr. Gardner will be to increase the stock by means of cuttings, it will be some time before the result of the experiment can be ascertained; he

CEYLON.

Experiment with
sugar.

is, however, very confident as to its ultimate success, as much of the country and climate of Ceylon is similar to those in which the plant is cultivated in Mexico.

Shortly after the arrival of the Superintendent in Ceylon (1844), he caused a portion of the uncultivated part of the garden grounds, amounting to somewhat less than two acres, to be cleared of jungle for the purpose of being taken into the garden as a place for a classified arrangement of Ceylon plants. So as to clear it thoroughly, he determined to plant it with sugar-cane in the first instance, having also in view the object of ascertaining the fitness of the soil and climate for the production of sugar. For such an experiment the place seemed to be well suited, as the soil was apparently of good quality, being above the general average of the garden, and nothing had hitherto been planted on it. The experiment was continued for three years, each year yielding a crop. The first crop produced at the rate of about two tons to the acre; the second, only about 8 cwt. to the acre; and the third to about 6 cwt. The first crop was a very fair one, being above a West India average. The great falling off in the two succeeding ones was, no doubt, owing to the soil being very deficient in the constituent parts necessary for the growth of cane, and that they were exhausted, or nearly so, by the first crop. During the early part of the growth of the last crop, guano was applied at the rate of about 2 cwt. to the acre, in solution, but without any apparent beneficial result.

The fruits of Ceylon being very inferior to those of many other tropical countries, Dr. Gardner is endeavouring to import better varieties, and during the last year he has been successful in introducing the large fruited mulberry and loquat from Bengal, as well as some of the best varieties of Egyptian oranges. For the latter we are indebted to Mr. Trail, the director of the gardens of his highness Ibrahim Pasha of Cairo. Of the 16 plants which arrived all are now alive but one, and are growing so luxuriantly that they will admit of grafts being taken from them during the approaching rainy season.

Geology and Minerals.—In 1847, with your Lordship's sanction, Dr. Gyax, an experienced Swiss mineralogist, was appointed to make a geological survey of the district of Saffragam, and the mountains surrounding Adam's Peak, being the portion of the island the most prolific in metals and minerals. In the pursuit of this inquiry he met with signal discouragement, from the evident reluctance of the natives to afford either information or assistance; but, nevertheless, his journeys have been productive of much valuable information, and the discovery of many productions capable of lucrative export, the existence of which was hitherto unknown. A condensed report of Dr. Gyax's proceedings, as recorded by himself, will be found in the Appendix.

No. 2.

SECTION III.

TRADE, BANKING, AND EXCHANGE.

The trade of Ceylon, as tested by its imports and exports, exhibited in 1847 the aspect which might have been expected from the unsatisfactory condition of British commerce generally, and the internal depression which checked the operations upon plantations and coffee estates. As regards

Imports—the gross amount, as compared with those of 1846, exhibits an increase of 49,000*l.*; but as this includes a large increase under the head of treasure (of which a considerable proportion was re-exported), the actual imports of the year fall short of those of the preceding by 24,000*l.*

	Merchandise Imported.	Treasure.	Total.
	£.	£.	£.
1846	990,859	381,842	1,372,701
1847	966,814	454,972	1,421,789

Analysis of the
imports.

A small increase took place in the import of articles of primary necessity, grain, provisions, live stock, wearing apparel, and coals for steam navigation. But the usual consignments to merchants have fallen off, as well as the import of stores, machinery, and the articles ordinarily consumed on estates and plantations. Cotton goods and silk, haberdashery, millinery, earthenware, cutlery,

books, furniture, and glass, and wines, have all declined, as well as arms, ammunition, and horses, the latter being used in Ceylon only as objects of luxury. Hardware, metals, wrought and unwrought, and tools of all descriptions are likewise amongst the items which have been introduced in diminished quantities.

The return of *Imports* for the year therefore stands thus—

<i>Gross Imports, Treasure included.</i>			
		£.	
1846	. . . . .	1,372,701	
1847	. . . . .	1,421,787	
Apparent increase			£49,086
<i>Net Imports.</i>			
		£.	£.
1846.—Gross value	. . . . .	1,372,701	
Deduct specie	. . . . .	381,842	
Goods imported			990,859
1847.—Gross value	. . . . .	1,421,787	
Deduct specie	. . . . .	454,972	
Goods imported			966,615
Decrease in 1847			£24,244

It must be likewise observed that the increase in the import of specie was only apparent, as after deducting the relative sums re-exported in the two years, the amount actually introduced in 1847, falls considerably short of that in 1846.

<i>Treasure Imported.</i>			
		£.	£.
1846	. . . . .	381,842	
Re-exported	. . . . .	87,402	
			294,440
1847	. . . . .	454,972	
Re-exported	. . . . .	198,566	
			256,406
Decrease in 1847			£38,034

Exports.—The exports of 1847 present a more satisfactory result, as a considerable addition has been made to the amount shown by the returns of 1846. This has arisen chiefly under the heads of coffee, (which has been exported to the value of 127,833^l.* beyond that of 1846), arrack, areca-nuts, cinnamon, cocoa-nut oil, coir, gems, and tobacco. On sugar, plumbago, and some other articles, there is a trifling decrease.

The actual improvement during the year (excluding the re-exports of specie and goods in transit) is shown as follows:—

		£.	£.
1846.—Gross exports	. . . . .	679,286	
Specie	. . . . .	87,402	
			591,884
Imports re-exported		94,074	
			497,810

* COFFEE:—			
	Cwt.		£
1846 173,891	328,791
1847 293,220	456,624
			119,329
			£127,833

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		£
Brought forward	.	497,810
1847.—Gross exports	.	961,116
Specie	.	198,566
		<hr/> 762,550
Imports re-exported		116,052
		<hr/> 646,498
Increase, 1847	.	<hr/> £148,688

Review of trade in
1847.

As regards the trade of the island, as tested by the returns now transmitted to your Lordship, it may be said of the year 1847, that whilst our staple exports, coffee, cinnamon, and the produce of the cocoa-nut palm exhibit a satisfactory advance, notwithstanding the unfavourable aspect of the period; those items of our imports which exhibit a decline have been evidently affected less by untoward appearances within the colony, than by adverse influences from without. The diminution in the quantity of treasure remitted from England, producing, as it naturally did, a curtailment of expenditure and operations on estates, led to a diminished demand for the machinery, implements, and stores which are ordinarily required by the plantations in the interior; and whilst the consumption of articles of primary necessity, provisions, live stock, and apparel, kept the import at its usual level, or rather above it, the exigencies of the moment imposed such a restriction on the use of articles of luxury and taste, as naturally produced the decline in their introduction, which is indicated by the returns.

Shipping.—The returns of shipping entered inwards shows a total increase of 142 vessels, with 16,792 tons, in favour of 1847, the respective numbers being—

		Vessels.	Tons.
1847	.	3,111	228,738
1846	.	2,969	211,946
		<hr/> Increase	<hr/> 16,792

The return of shipping cleared outwards shows also an increase of 96 vessels, 16,564 tons, for the year 1847, compared with the preceding 12 months :—

		Vessels.	Tons.
1847	.	3,062	228,998
1846	.	2,966	212,434
		<hr/> Increase	<hr/> 16,564

Native Shipping.—As compared with 1846, the registered tonnage of vessels belonging to Ceylon in the year 1847, exhibits a diminution, but this has chiefly been caused by a recent revision of the register, and the removal of vessels lost or broken up.

	1846.		1847.	
	Nos.	Tons.	Nos.	Tons.
Western Province	292	15,799	256	13,703
Southern Province	256	9,810	264	10,089
Northern Province	117	4,384	126	4,669
Eastern Province	16	566	16	594
Total, Island of Ceylon . .	681	30,559	662	29,055

Banking.—The Despatch which accompanied the Blue Book for 1846, and others of recent date,* have given your Lordship full details as to the capital and proceeding of the banking establishments of the colony. The operations of the bank of Ceylon have been greatly contracted during the year 1847; and both establishments were compelled, from the aspect of commercial affairs, to contract the extent of their accommodations to the public; and advances

* No. 19, May 10, 1847; No. 153, Nov. 11, 1847; No. 86, May 1, 1848.

were chiefly made upon covered bills, or drafts against the crops of coffee in process of shipment. The following table exhibits the maximum and minimum rates for purchasing and selling bills on England and the presidencies in each of the years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.*

PURCHASING.								
	1844		1845		1846		1847	
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Maximum.	Minimum.
On England :								
6 mo. st. .	4 pr ct. pr.	3 pr ct. dis.	4 pr ct. pr.	7 pr ct. dis.	2 pr ct. dis.	7 pr ct. dis.	3 pr ct. dis.	7 pr ct. dis.
3 mo. st. .	4½ pr ct. pr.	2 pr ct. dis.	4 pr ct. pr.	1 pr ct. pr.	1 pr ct. dis.	5 pr ct. dis.	Par.	5 pr ct. dis.
30 d. st. .	5 pr ct. pr.	1 pr ct. dis.	5 pr ct. pr.	2 pr ct. pr.	½ pr ct. dis.	5 pr ct. dis.	2 pr ct. pr.	3 pr ct. dis.
Bombay .	1s. 11¾d.	1s. 11¾d.	1s. 11¾d.	1s. 11¾d.	1s. 11¾d.	1s. 11¾d.	1s. 11¾d.	1s. 11d.
Madras .	1s. 11¾d.	1s. 11¾d.	1s. 11¾d.	1s. 11¾d.	1s. 11¾d.	1s. 11¾d.	1s. 11¾d.	1s. 11¾d.
Calcutta .	1s. 11¾d.	1s. 11¾d.	1s. 11¾d.	1s. 11¾d.	1s. 11¾d.	1s. 11¾d.	1s. 11¾d.	1s. 11d.
SELLING.								
On England :								
6 mo. st. .	7 pr ct. pr.	. .	7 pr ct. pr.	2 pr ct. dis.	1 pr ct. pr.	2 pr ct. dis.	Par.	5 pr ct. dis.
3 mo. st. .	8 pr ct. pr.	. .	8 pr ct. pr.	5 pr ct. pr.	Par.	2 pr ct. dis.	2 pr ct. pr.	4 pr ct. dis.
30 d. st. .	9 pr ct. pr.	. .	9 pr ct. pr.	7 pr ct. pr.	3 pr ct. pr.	Par.	5 pr ct. pr.	2 pr ct. dis.
Bombay .	Par.	1s. 11¾d.	Par.	1s. 11¾d.	Par.	1s. 11¾d.	1s. 11¾d.	1s. 11¾d.
Madras .	2s. 1d.	Par.	. .	1s. 11¾d.	Par.	1s. 11¾d.	1s. 11¾d.	1s. 11¾d.
Calcutta .	2s. 1d.	Par.	. .	1s. 11¾d.	Par.	1s. 11¾d.	Par.	1s. 11¾d.

The current rates of *interest* on loans in 1847 were, discounts on three months' bills, 12 per cent. ; short loans on deposits, 10 ; on long loans on mortgages of real property so few advances were made that no quotation can be given.

Gold.—The gold imported during the first nine months of 1847 exceeded that imported during the same period of 1846, but after the panic of October the amount was very trifling. The price, however, was fully maintained, and many thousands of dragon sovereigns were sold from 22s. 6d. to 23s. The Oriental Bank imported a considerable quantity of bar and leaf gold from China, which sold about 24s. the sovereign weight.

SECTION IV.

POST COMMUNICATION—THE SURVEYOR-GENERAL—THE COMMISSIONER OF ROADS—THE CIVIL ENGINEER.

The very ample details connected with the Post Office Department, given along with the returns for 1846, obviate the necessity of further exposition in the present Despatch. The great difficulties still to be overcome are opposed by the nature of the country and the want of roads to connect remote districts, between which the mails are now carried by foot-paths which traverse the jungle and sands, and are intersected by deep and rapid streams infested by alligators, through which the letter-carriers have to wade for one-third the year, carrying the packets above their heads. These men receive such trifling pay (from 15s. to 18s. per mensem, for travelling 16 miles a-day to and fro) that it is difficult to select a trustworthy class, or to enforce regularity by adequate restraints.

Post office.

Inferior class of post-holders.

Owing to the scattered nature of the population, and the absence of any

* As your Lordship may be desirous to trace the effects of the recent financial crisis to a later period, the rates of exchange are continued for the early portion of the present year.

1848			1848		
Purchasing on England.			Selling on England.		
	Maximum.	Minimum.		Maximum.	Minimum.
6 mo. st. .	1 per cent. pr.	3 per cent. dis.	6 mo. st. .	3 per cent. pr.	1 per cent. dis.
3 mo. st. .	2 per cent. pr.	Par.	3 mo. st. .	6 per cent. pr.	4½ per cent. dis.
30 d. st. .	5 per cent. pr.	2 per cent. pr.	30 d. st. .	8 per cent. pr.	5 per cent. dis.
Bombay .	1s. 11¾d.	1s. 11¾d.	Bombay .	1s. 11¾d.	1s. 11¾d.
Madras .	1s. 11¾d.	1s. 11¾d.	Madras .	Par.	1s. 11¾d.
Calcutta .	1s. 11¾d.	1s. 11d.	Calcutta .	1s. 11¾d.	1s. 11¾d.

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class, equivalent to the class of country shopkeepers of England, who would take charge of the letters in out-stations for a small annual salary, it is equally difficult and expensive to keep up as many stations throughout the interior as would be required for the efficient accommodation of the planters. Some idea may be formed of the difficulty of procuring fit postholders for these districts by the fact, that the postholders during the last year have been changed five times at some of the inland stations, by removal for misconduct and neglect, or by resignation from the insufficiency of pay, which the state of the finances does not admit of being increased at present.

Overland Mail.—The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company having at the beginning of 1847 sent three new steamers to India for the performance of their contract, and finding it necessary that all their ships should be sent from time to time to Bombay to be repaired, proposed to the Treasury to carry free of expense, between Bombay and Ceylon, the mails arriving at the former place, and sent homeward from the latter at the end of each month, thus obviating the necessity of employing our own colonial steamer, the “Seaforth,” on this service. This offer, which would have relieved the colonial Government of the expense of employing that vessel monthly, was, however, rendered less acceptable by days of departure being fixed, by the Company’s agent at Bombay, entirely with a view to the interest of that community, so that the mails arriving from England for Ceylon would be detained a week or 10 days at Bombay, and those forwarded homewards would have to be dispatched from this about the same day as those forwarded by way of Galle, and which would reach London a fortnight earlier. For this reason the proposed arrangement has as yet been productive of little advantage to Ceylon, nor have I as yet been able altogether to appropriate the “Seaforth” to urgent local services. I trust, however, to see such improved arrangements as will secure to the colony the benefits designed by the Peninsular and Oriental Company in making their liberal proposal.

The uncertainty with which the Overland Mails have been in former years brought down by portions from Bombay, during the prevalence of the south-west monsoon, induced the Postmaster-General to apply to Government for permission to propose to the Secretary of the General Post Office, in London, that the packets should only be made up for Ceylon once a month in May, June, and July, and that the whole of the correspondence of those months should be sent to Point de Galle. This arrangement having been acceded to by Her Majesty’s Postmaster-General, has been acted on accordingly; and it has been in some measure followed up in London by announcement being issued that no mails will in future be forwarded to India, by way of Southampton, at the commencement of the month, but that all such correspondence will be transmitted by way of Marseilles, which will, no doubt, cause the bulk of the mails throughout the year to be sent to India by the steamer leaving Southampton, on the 20th of each month.

Receipts and Expenditure.—Notwithstanding the great reduction of postage on inland correspondence in 1846, diminishing by one-half previous charges, the revenue of the department has improved in a very trifling degree; whilst owing to the increase of salary rendered necessary by a rise in the prices of all requisites of life, the expenditure has been augmented by some hundreds of pounds.

The following are the returns for the last three years:—

	1845.			1846.			1847.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Receipts	7,385	6	3	7,576	15	6	7,600	13	0
Expenditure	6,590	2	5	7,448	11	8	7,916	2	5

It is, however, to be borne in mind that, although private franking has been almost entirely discontinued, the public correspondence and parcels of all weights from every office in the island are carried free, and their cost is included in the above expenditure. The revenue is chiefly derived from the western and central provinces of the island, which are the most closely inhabited, the other four provinces giving very scanty returns. Out of the above receipts the following amounts were levied in the western and central provinces:—

Suspension of the Bombay expresses during the south-west monsoon.

1845			1846			1847		
£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
5,229	4	5	5,584	10	4	5,569	7	4

As the Overland correspondence is mainly from and to persons residing in those commercial and agricultural districts of the island, it will be seen that, as far as letters are concerned, their number has not increased; but there has been a very great augmentation in the number of newspapers received, which is chiefly owing to the attraction which the pictorial papers have in the eyes of the middling classes.

The improvement in the communication between Colombo and Point de Galle has been very great since the conveyance of the mails has been in the hands of the present contractor. The mails which have been landed at Galle about 10 o'clock on the one day have been assorted and dispatched to every part of the island before 2 P.M., and have generally reached Kandy, a distance of 144 miles, at the same hour the next day. From that station despatches might reach our naval officers at Trincomalie in 28 hours.

No improvements in the Post Office department need be suggested, in addition to those mentioned in last year's report, in which everything which the present state of this island would admit of was fully pointed out.

The Surveyor-General's Department.—Owing to the suspended demand for Crown lands, the operations of this department during the year 1847 have been chiefly confined to the prosecution of measures with a view to the general survey of the island; the services of the officers on the contingent list have been dispensed with, and those on the fixed establishment employed principally in the re-survey of large tracts in the central province and the allotment and survey of lands for cocoanut planting in the eastern. Some lots of Crown lands were also prepared for sale; but the extent is too trifling to require particular notice.

As the constitution and strength of this department have been made the subject of recent Despatches to your Lordship on the subject of its future employment, it is unnecessary to refer to it further in this paper.

The total expenses of this department for salaries and charges of every description during the year were 4743*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.*, but, owing to diminished sales of Crown lands, only 367*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.* was recovered from purchasers.

Roads.—During the year 1847, the expenditure on this important department has been compulsorily reduced, from the state of the colonial finances, considerably below that of 1846, as will be seen by the accompanying table:—

	1846			1847		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
On 367½ miles of the principal or 1st class carriage roads, there has been expended in repairs and upkeep	19,300	19	9½	15,131	18	1
On 217½ miles of 2nd class roads, bridged and opened to full width, but neither metalled or gravelled, for upkeep and repair	5,136	1	2½	2,996	17	2½
On 694½ miles of all other descriptions of roads, expenditure having been confined to that which would suffice to prevent serious deterioration	19,594	9	6½	5,316	16	0½
Towards completion of 40 miles of road from Gampola to the Calany Gange at Yatteautotte	7,311	7	11½	9,782	19	11
Opening and improvement of roads previously only partially opened	1,885	16	11½	4,120	10	8½
Peradenia Bridge, repaired				3,206	1	2½
Departmental—salaries, &c. &c.	7,793	10	10½	6,312	18	10½
	61,022	6	3½	46,878	2	0½

The most important line of new road now in progress is that which is to connect the coffee districts in the central province with the navigable river, the Kalani ganga, by which their produce may be brought for shipment to Colombo. On this work, 9782*l.* was expended between Gampola, where it joins the road to Kandy and Yatteantotte, where the new road debouches on the river. The completion of this valuable communication will, I trust, be effected in the course of next year, and not only afford signal facilities to the planting interest, but greatly relieve the traffic and consequent expenditure upon other lines. New roads.

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The *Kandy Road*, between Colombo and the central capital, is a source to me of much anxiety, owing to its paramount importance, coupled with the serious annual expense for its maintenance: 10,000*l.*, voted for it in 1847, have been found quite inadequate to its repair, and an additional 5000*l.* must inevitably be expended during the present year.

Northern road to India.

One new line of road was sanctioned in 1847, to be executed in the present year, viz., from Manaar on the western coast to the great central and northern line, by which the Malabar Coolies, for whose convenience it is specially intended, make their migratory journeys to and from India. It will be about 45 miles in length; and of such an inexpensive character, that from 30*l.* to 40*l.* a mile will be all that will be required to open and render it traversable for wheel traffic, though it will require further outlay as that traffic increases.

Inadequacy of income to keep up the road system.

As regards roads generally, and with reference to the state of the revenue of the colony, the funds which the Government has hitherto been enabled to place at the disposal of this department from the ordinary revenue, have been wholly inadequate to the efficient upkeep of the old established lines, and the improvement or extension of new. But I rely with much confidence on the operation of the Road Ordinance, now under your Lordship's consideration, without which or some equivalent means for the construction and upkeep of communications, I cannot but entertain serious apprehensions of our inability to effect that indispensable object.

Northern province.

There is no one district in the island whose prosperity is not at present retarded, by the insufficiency of means of transit and traffic. In the Northern province, the vast and fertile provinces of the Wanny, once a separate kingdom, and the productive plains of Nuweracalawa, formerly the granary of the Ceylon sovereigns, are now deserted solitudes, owing to the utter want of roads of any description, with the exception of one line from north to south, the instantaneous effects of which on the cultivation and prosperity of the sections of country in immediate contact with it were almost incredible; rice and other produce, before unsaleable, having at once become double in value by the demand created through this new outlet. Diverging lines in other directions, but connected with this main trunk will be productive of incalculable advantages to these districts; and on them must depend the success of any attempt that may be hereafter made to repair the stupendous tanks and channels for irrigation, by which these provinces were once rendered the most luxuriant in the island; as, owing to their decay, they are now the most forgotten and unproductive.

Eastern province.

The Eastern province has been so long neglected as regards roads, that it may be said to be absolutely destitute of any save the unfinished one between Trincomalie and Kandy. It should be improved, and if possible bridged; and the fertile country on either bank of the Mahavilla Gange in its course through Tamankadooc should be opened up to the coast and harbour of Trincomalie. Already the effect of carrying a communication between the latter place and Neurakalawe by the road recently formed to Anarajapooru has been most satisfactory.

North-western province.

In the North-western province, the old road from Putlam to Kurnegalle, which is in a miserable state, would demand our first attention, while several short lines are required from the coast inland from Chilaw and Madampe, especially to very populous portions of the district, which are at present only partially known, and have rarely been visited by Europeans.

The prosperity of the salt and the fish trades in the north-western province, is much retarded for the want of facilities of access to the inland districts; the grain production of which is limited to the consumption of the inhabitants from the difficulty of conveying it to a market. These provinces are, if not retrograding, at least stationary as regards improvement.

Western and Central provinces.

In the *Western* and *Central* provinces, the existing unfinished or projected lines will absorb all the labour and means which the country can for a series of years afford for their completion and upkeep.

Southern province.

In the *Southern* province, the only existing line of carriage road is along its coast for 67 miles from its northern limit at Bentotte to Dondra Head. Many miles are required in this province, and its population is so dense in parts, that the judicious application of the Road Ordinance will soon change the face of the country. But on this Ordinance must rest all hope of any further *extension* of our internal communications, as with the funds at present,

or which it appears probable will be hereafter available from the revenue of the colony, it will be barely possible to keep existing roads in efficient repair; and to complete the lines which have been traced and are partially opened, or to open others still urgently required, will be quite out of the question with our present resources.

Civil Engineer.—In this department I placed every possible limit to expenditure at the beginning of the year, from an apprehension of the financial difficulties which were foreseen from an early period. Public works already commenced, or repairs of urgent necessity, were those alone to which I gave my sanction, and even under these restrictions, the expenditure of 1847 has been very considerable.

The new gaols at Colombo and Kandy have been far advanced towards completion on the original plan; and at the former, the labour of the prisoners has been made available to a great extent under the superintendence of the Civil Engineer. The prisons of Kaigalle, Putlam, and Matele, have also undergone extension and repair. Gaols.

The lunatic hospital, at Colombo, was opened for patients in the early part of the year, and the pauper hospitals of Kurnegalle and Kandy extensively repaired. Hospitals.

A residence for the Superintendent of the Royal Botanic Garden, at Peradenia, has been completed, at an expense of 980*l.*; and alterations, additions, and repairs, have been as usual made to the churches, official residences, court houses, and public buildings, throughout the island; items, trifling in individual amount, but in the aggregate forming an important but unavoidable outlay.

The whole of the plating of the Iron Light House, which arrived from England in September, 1847, has been put up, the rock having been previously prepared for the footing course. The outlay in 1847 has been 540*l.*, including the passage out, and salary of Mr. Paget Walker. Lighthouse at Galle.

The cost of the Light House, with freight and charges, amounts to 1861*l.*, and a further sum of about 650*l.* (including the Engineer's salary, passage home, &c.), has been paid in 1848 to complete the erection.

The light is now exhibited, and the effect most satisfactory.

Jetties have been constructed and repaired at Galle, Colombo, and Negombo, at an expense of 903*l.*; and 17 bridges have been built or renewed throughout the island at an aggregate expenditure of 9493*l.* Jetties.
Bridges.

SECTION V.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

On the revenue and receipts of 1847, compared with those of 1846, there is an increase of 37,000*l.* on some items, but deducting a decrease of 13,000*l.* on others, the net increase on the income of the year is 24,000*l.*

	£.	s.	d.
Revenue, 1847 . . .	440,619	5	7½
„ 1846 . . .	416,403	15	2½
Increase . . .	£ 24,215	10	5¼

The chief items which exhibit an increase are the Customs, especially the duty upon exports, which has been augmented by the large quantity of coffee, cinnamon, and cocoa-nut oil shipped in that year, the tax on home-grown rice and other grain, which has likewise increased, owing to the greater breadth of cultivation, encouraged by the favourable rains; garden farms, including the right to cut cinnamon in the Government garden at Marendahu; stamps, judicial and commercial; the Commissariat receipts; and the revenue arrears of former years, of which a much larger sum has been recovered in this year than in 1846. The increase.

The decrease is chiefly under the heads of land sales; salt which has greatly declined since the cessation of the export to India; tolls; the assessment tax on houses; and arrack and toddy farms which are liable to be affected by every fluctuation, which increases or restricts the amount of wages and money at the Decrease.

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disposal of the labouring classes, The arrears of rent due upon the year are also very considerable, and are now in process of recovery.

The balance as between the increase and decrease is exhibited as follows:—

	£.	s.	d.
Arrears of revenue of former years recovered more in 1847 than in 1846	9,737	0	0
Increase on Customs revenue, viz., on exports, 6000 <i>l.</i> ; on imports, 3500 <i>l.</i> ; and on port dues, &c., 300 <i>l.</i> , or in all	9,800	0	0
Increase on Paddy fine grain and garden farms, duty on timber, licenses to distil and deal in spirits, weights and measures, chank farm, postage, and assessment on carts	2,384	0	0
Increase on judicial and blank stamps	2,786	0	0
Increase on Commissariat receipts for stores and provisions sold, and issued to the troops	4,845	0	0
Increase on premium on bills, difference of exchange, interest on arrears of rent and moneys lent out by the Loan Board, &c.	3,047	0	0
Increase on fines and forfeitures, and other small receipts	1,750	0	0
Increase on abatements on salaries	1,551	0	0
Increase on judicial receipts by the agent in London	1,736	0	0
Total increase	37,636	0	0
Deduct decrease on the following heads, viz.:—			
Sale of lands	6,582	0	0
Arrack and toddy farms, salt tolls, and assessment tax on houses	1,441	0	0
On sundry incidental receipts.	1,930	0	0
On surcharges recovered	3,468	0	0
Deduct decrease	13,421	0	0
Net increase of revenue	£ 24,215	0	0

Looking to the financial difficulties of the year, and the commercial embarrassments of the colony, this result is highly satisfactory.

In other Despatches I have made your Lordship acquainted with the various changes in the structure of the revenue system which I have effected with the concurrence of the Legislative Council, during the Session of 1847, many of which have already received your Lordship's sanction. I look forward with equal confidence to their effects on the Colonial Treasury, and their beneficial influence on the prosperity of the people; and believing them to be based on sound principles of commercial policy, whatever temporary inconvenience may result to the revenue from the change, I shall not be discouraged in my confidence as to their future and permanent advantages to the colony.

Pearl Banks.—Our prospects of any receipts from the pearl fishery are still, I regret to say, uncertain; but as such intervals of inaction, and even much more prolonged, occurred in the time of the Dutch as well as subsequent to our own occupation of Ceylon, there is no reason for discouragement as to an ultimate return from this valuable though fluctuating source.

An inspection of the Pearl Banks, at which the Colonial Secretary was present, took place in March last; and though the result holds out no immediate hope of a fishery, it is highly encouraging, as pearl oysters of various ages under four years were found, though thinly scattered over several of the beds which have been successfully fished in former years; and two deposits in particular are so far advanced on localities which have hitherto produced the finest pearls, that, if undisturbed, they are likely at no distant period to be highly productive. A new bank was discovered whilst the Colonial Secretary was on board, to the north of the island of Delft, a situation in which pearl oysters were by no means expected. The shells were from four to five years old. This incident has determined me to direct a more vigilant and extensive inspection, in September next, than it has been hitherto customary to make; and I am now taking measures with that view.

The habits of the fish, even after so many centuries of observation and experience, are still most imperfectly understood; nor do even those longest engaged in the pearl fisheries possess any sound idea as to the probable causes of their disappearance, or those which determine their adoption of particular localities. Large and promising deposits have unexpectedly been discovered

(as in the instance of the new bank at Delft, and one similarly brought to light to the west of Calpentyn a few years ago) in the most unlooked for localities; and I have a strong confidence that now, when the "Seaforth" steamer can be more exclusively devoted to this service, a comprehensive and minute survey of all the coast frequented, however irregularly, by the pearl oyster, is likely to be attended with successful results.

The report of the master-attendant, who conducted the last experiment, is subjoined for your Lordship's information.

Expenditure.—The expenditure of 1847 exceeds that of 1846 by 20,781*l.*, but this excess is attributable to the introduction of the new system of colonial accounts, by which the commencement of the financial year was deferred from the 1st December, 1847, to the 1st January, 1848; so that the expenditure of 13 months has been comprised in the returns for the latter year. The addition thus made exceeds 22,000*l.*, deducting which, the actual expenditure of the year is less than that of the previous one.

The following statement exhibits in detail the items of ordinary and extraordinary charges, in which an increase or diminution has taken place as compared with the accounts of 1846.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Increase in the ordinary expenses sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government of the current year	13,851	7	0½			
Deduct arrears of former years, less charged in 1847 than in 1846	3,707	2	11½			
Difference increase				10,144	4	1½
Increase in the extraordinary expenses sanctioned by the Legislative Council, viz.,—						
In arrears of former years, paid more in 1847 than in 1846	6,392	12	10½			
In charges of the current year	4,244	17	2½			
In all increase on the extraordinary expenses				10,637	10	0½
Total increase as above				£ 20,781	14	2

The increase of 13,851*l.* 7*s.* 0½*d.* on the ordinary expenses of the current year is accounted for as follows:—

Increase on the Governor's establishment . . .	258	15	7½
Ditto Colonial Secretary's establishment . . .	21	17	10½
Ditto Treasurer's establishment . . .	29	15	0
Ditto Civil Engineer, Surveyor-General, and Commissioner of Roads' establishments . . .	3,961	17	4
Ditto Principal Civil Medical Officer's establishment . . .	735	9	3½
Ditto Superintendent of the Botanic Gardens' establishment . . .	51	13	4
Ditto Ecclesiastical establishment . . .	692	6	9
Ditto School establishment . . .	524	15	7½
Ditto Government Agents of the Pro- vinces' establishment . . .	768	2	0¾
Ditto Customs' establishment . . .	1,872	5	0½
Ditto Post-office establishment . . .	132	2	3½
Ditto Judges of the Supreme Court's establishment . . .	624	13	2½
Ditto Registrar of the Supreme Court's establishment . . .	11	19	6
Ditto Queen's Advocate's establishment . . .	314	18	5
Ditto District Judges' establishment . . .	1,070	3	8½
Ditto Commissioners of Requests and Police Magistrates' establish- ment . . .	1,572	10	5
Ditto Fiscals, gaols and police establish- ments . . .	1,486	13	8½
Ditto Colonial Commissariat establish- ment . . .	529	4	4
Ditto Allowance to the late Governor to defray his passage to England . . .	800	0	0
Ditto Interest on Dutch paper money . . .	12	8	0¾
In all increase . . .			15,471 11 6½
			2 Q 2

CEYLON.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Brought forward				15,471	11	6½
Deduct decrease on the following establishments:—						
Decrease on the Auditor-General's establishment	101	8	0			
Ditto Masters' Attendant establishment	48	6	2½			
Ditto Steamer "Seaforth" establishment	58	19	4½			
Ditto Military pay and allowances .	348	13	9½			
Ditto Pensions and retired allowances .	1,062	17	1½			
In all decrease				1,620	4	5½
Difference increase as stated				13,851	7	0½
Deduct arrears of former years, less paid in 1847 than in 1846				3,707	2	11½
Net increase				£ 10,144	4	1½

The increase of 10,637*l.* 10*s.* 0½*d.* on the extraordinary expenses is on the following charges, viz.:—

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Increase on Civil charges, including public works, temporary salaries, and contingencies, being arrears of former years, charged more in 1847 than in 1846	13,384	10	1½			
Deduct decrease on similar charges of the current year	6,489	6	1½			
				6,895	3	11½
Increase on pensions and retired allowances, provisional				403	3	10½
Ditto on charitable allowances				191	7	3½
Ditto on provisional salaries, and contingencies of the school establishment				344	1	2½
Ditto on judicial charges, including temporary salaries and contingencies, being arrears of former years, charged more in 1847 than in 1846	1,512	18	0			
On charges of the current year	1,660	12	1½			
				3,173	10	1½
Ditto on charges of the fiscals, gaols and police establishments of the current year	737	9	10			
Deduct arrears of former years, less charged in 1847 than in 1846	142	2	4½			
				595	7	5½
Increase on charges of the Post Office establishment, including temporary salaries and contingencies of the current year	345	7	9			
Deduct arrears of former years, less charged in 1847 than in 1846	25	1	11			
				320	5	10
Increase on military contingent charges of the current year	74	16	4½			
Ditto on arrears of former years	34	4	2			
				109	0	6½
Ditto on charges by the Agent in London for stores and other miscellaneous expenses				5,607	7	3
Total increase				17,639	7	6½
Deduct decrease on the following charges:—						
Revenue charges on arrears of former years	£1,778	15	5½			
Deduct increase on the charges of the current year	970	8	1			
				808	7	4½
On charges of the Customs' department				3	5	9
Commissariat charges, including cost of provisions and stores, military works, &c., being arrears of former years, less charged in 1847 than in 1846	6,933	4	9½			
Deduct increase in charges of the current year	170	10	8½			
				6,062	14	0½
Charges by the Governments and Agents in India				127	10	3½
Total decrease				7,001	17	5½
Net increase as stated				£10,637	10	0½

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CEYLON.

The excess of the expenditure over the income of the year has been provided for from the surplus revenue of former periods, and after meeting this and all other charges, the balance in hand in all the Colonial Treasuries on the 31st December, 1847, amounted, as shown by the returns appended to my recent financial Despatch, to 90,854*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, inclusive of 42,149*l.* in Government notes. The amount of Government notes in circulation at the same date was 48,706*l.* A statement in detail, exhibiting the relative amounts in each cutcherry, in coin and paper, will be found attached to the Appendix.

Balance in hand.
No. 108, June 7,
1848.

No. 4.

From the facts which I have thus submitted to your Lordship's notice, and others established by the very copious returns which accompany this Despatch, some important conclusions claim special attention, as indicative of the past progress and future prospects of the colony. The years 1844 and 1845 are those which exhibit the most ostensible outward evidences of advancement and prosperity; as the eagerness for forming plantations of coffee had then attained its climax, and the demand for lands suitable to that purpose was then at its maximum. The first check to this activity was applied by the events of 1845-6, when the revenue of the latter year declined from 454,000*l.* to 416,000*l.*; and it is gratifying as evidence of the recuperative power within the colony itself that, during the last year, although our receipts from land sales and other casual sources have not recovered, the steady advance of the regular revenue has been such as to compensate for the loss, and to bring the income of the year something nearer to an equality with that of 1844, before the panic commenced:—

	1844			1845			1846			1847		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Regular revenue . . .	395,145	8	9½	375,104	14	8½	360,612	9	0½	353,880	16	2½
Casual revenue and incidental receipts . . .	59,173	8	3½	79,041	11	9½	55,791	6	1½	56,738	9	4½
Total revenue . . .	444,318	17	1	454,146	6	6	416,403	15	2½	440,619	5	7½

Paradoxical as it may appear, I am constrained to say that I anticipate greater difficulty in controlling and reducing expenditure than in providing a suitable amount of revenue. Many sources whence the latter may legitimately be derived appear to me as yet untouched, and others already productive seem capable of extension by judicious management. But establishments once formed, and expenditure sanctioned in anything like an annual or permanent form, I find the utmost difficulty afterwards to reduce and contract. The duties of those appointed on emergencies or for the execution of particular services, when protracted gradually and almost imperceptibly, become fused with the general routine of departments, and practical obstacles are offered to every contemplated plan for their subsequent separation and reduction. A continuance of prosperity, and an increase of income, lead to an extension of operations, and this naturally involves not only an augmentation of temporary employment, but an increase of the fixed establishments of the colony, which it becomes all but impossible to reduce without an apparent violation of public faith. Between 1841 and 1847, your Lordship's predecessors have sanctioned additions to the fixed establishments to upwards of 40,000*l.* per annum, and during the same period the demand for roads, buildings, and public works of every description, occasioned by the increase of planting operations, and warranted by the aspect and receipts of the public treasury, has added upwards of 100,000*l.* per annum to the casual expenditure of the colony. This liberality was justified by the excess of income over outlay, which, in 1844 and 1845, left a surplus, which, after defraying every colonial charge, was sufficient to form a fund out of which the excess of expenditure over revenue was provided for during the two succeeding years.

Economy.

CEYLON.

EXPENDITURE.*	1844			1845			1846			1847		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Ordinary expenses sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government, including salaries and establishments, pensions, &c. . . .	215,423	11	11½	223,255	5	10½	246,026	19	11½	256,171	4	0½
Extraordinary expenses sanctioned by supply ordinances	152,124	8	11½	213,368	5	7	229,584	0	5½	254,476	2	6½
Extraordinary expenses sanctioned by ordinances to expend surplus revenue of former years	7,328	13	4½	11,609	0	4½	22,594	8	4½	8,339	16	5
Total expenditure	374,876	14	3½	448,232	11	10	498,205	8	10	518,987	3	0
Excess of revenue over expenditure	69,442	2	9½	5,913	14	8	. . .			. . .
Excess of expenditure over revenue . . . . .	. . .			. . .			81,801	13	7½	78,367	17	4½

* Calculated in 1847 for 13 months.

That fund is now exhausted ; but a permanent addition to our annual expenditure has been entailed by its outlay, the roads, buildings, and public works, which the colony was enabled to construct out of this extraordinary fund, must now be maintained and kept in repair out of its ordinary revenue, and establishments for their superintendence and upkeep must necessarily be maintained on a scale proportionate to their recent extension. No effort has been spared on my own part to effect every possible reduction, and your Lordship will not fail to perceive that my exertions have been so far successful as to bring the actual outlay of the last year below that of the preceding one ; a result which had not occurred for some previous years, and which was the more difficult to realize, as the sums assigned to particular services during the first year of my government, had been so appropriated and voted by the Legislative Council, in the session of 1846, before my arrival in the colony.

The following table will show your Lordship the increase of expenditure in each of the last three years compared with that of 1844 :—

Diminution of expenditure in 1847.

	Ordinary Expenses sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government.			Extraordinary Expenses sanctioned by the Legislative Council.			Total Increase.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
The increase of expenditure of 1845 over 1844 was	7,831	13	10½	65,524	3	7½	73,355	17	6½
Ditto of 1846 over 1845 was	22,771	14	1½	27,201	2	10½	49,972	17	0
Ditto of 1847 over 1846 was	10,144	4	1½	10,637	10	0½	20,781	14	2

But as the gross expenditure of 1847, it will be borne in mind, includes 22,000*l.* on account of one month of 1846 comprised in its account, the actual net outlay of the year, after deducting this sum, will be found to fall below that of 1846.

In this course of economy it is my intention to persevere till the maturing of a permanent and satisfactory revenue may warrant a return to more generous expenditure ; but I cannot withhold from your Lordship on this occasion a fresh allusion to the fact, to which I have so frequently invited attention, that my grand obstacle in the attempt to bring the expenditure of the colony into greater consistency with its income is obstructed on every hand by the disproportionate charges with which the island is burthened for military purposes, the defrayal of which has involved the colonial treasury in difficulties and embarrassment at the present moment, as regards the discharge of our financial obligations, on account of the civil government.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) TORRINGTON.

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APPENDIX No. 1.

CEYLON.
Appendix No. 1.

RETURN of LANDS under COFFEE CULTIVATION.

	No. of Estates.	No. of Acres Planted before 1845.	No. of Acres Planted in 1845.	No. of Acres Planted in 1846.	No. of Acres Planted in 1847.	Total.
Western Province . . .	53	2,865½	1,533½	853	262½	5,515½
North-western Province .	5	345	59	..	..	404
Central Province . . .	309	23,219	9,573½	10,299½	3,710½	46,803½
Grand Total . .	367	26,429½	11,166½	11,152½	3,973½	52,722½

J. EMERSON TENNENT.

APPENDIX No. 2.

Appendix No. 2.

Dr. Gygax's Geological Survey.

I left Colombo on my tour in July, 1847, and my instructions required me to note in a geological way the features of the country, pointing out the peculiarities of the soil and climate, and, where specimens of ores or valuable earths were found, to examine the locality, with a view to ascertain the existence of any mines of value. I started for Ratnapoora, the capital of the district, and followed the course of the Walloway river for many miles, taking my way south-east towards Balangadde; thence in the direction of the higher mountain zone overlooking the Bintenne country.

The geological formation of the district appears to be similar to that known as the Cambrian and Devonian. The rocks are mostly granitic, interspersed by innumerable strata of irruptive matter, viz., syenite, hypersten, erphotite, and basalts, in all their varieties. In the lower parts of the district the country chiefly consists of low undulating hills of quartz rock, with limestone and basalt. The soil generally is of a superficial character, bearing luxuriantly a few crops, but, on being worked, very rapidly wears out. It is believed that the heavy rains, at certain seasons overflowing the country from the higher forest lands, descend so charged with carbonic acid from the decayed vegetation as to neutralize and wash out the little alkaline matter of this superficial soil. The red and brown soils, however, the produce of the Plutonic formation, are far more lasting, as they contain a good deal of rich alkaloids, with more iron and manganese.

Geological formation.

Soil.

The only considerable rivers here are the Kalu-ganga and the Walloway, running from the south-east to the north-west; the small streams run from south-west to north-east. The former river is navigable from Ratnapoora to the sea at Caltura, from which place there is a canal to Colombo, which will materially assist the transfer of ores and minerals to Colombo.

Rivers.

From the commencement of my researches I felt convinced that I should succeed in meeting with mines of iron, tin, manganese, cobalt, nickel, and others; and, even at the present moment, although but very partially successful, and meeting with many difficulties, I am confident of their existence, both from the general features of the country and from the evidences met with. It must be borne in mind that all the specimens, or even larger quantities of metals hitherto collected, have been simply taken from the surface; no attempts having to this time been made at excavating; there being not one mason or stone-worker in the district, nor a stone building of any description, except the ancient temples.

The varieties of iron met with are six in number, viz., magnetic iron ore, titanate of iron, chromate of iron, iron with manganese, iron pyrites, and yellow hydrate and red peroxide of iron. The iron, however, in most of these is scanty, and the ores of little value, except to extract the chrome and manganese. But there is another description of ore found in vast abundance, brown and compact, generally in the state of carbonate, though still blended with a little chrome, and often with molybdena. This occurs in large masses and veins, one of which, I believe, extends for a distance of 15 miles. Of this, millions of tons might be smelted, and, when found near water carriage and fuel, it may be worked to a profit. I would lay particular stress on the very fine quality of the iron ore found in Ceylon; it is easily smelted, and so pure when reduced as to resemble silver. The rough ore produces from 30 to 75 per cent.; on an average, fully 50 per cent. The iron wrought from it requires no puddling, and steel thus made cuts glass like a diamond. From calculations carefully made the metal could, I think, be laid down in Colombo for about 6l. per ton, and this supposing the ore had to be brought hither for smelting, and even prepared with English coal; but anthracite, being found on the spot, could be used in the proportion of 3 to 1 of English coal, and much cost saved. Remains of smelting furnaces are met with in all directions, precisely similar to those now in use amongst the natives. The Singhalese never go to any trouble for the ore required; they seek a spot where the last rains have loosened the soil, and there break out a sufficient quantity, which is prepared in a couple of hours by the most simple means. None of their furnaces can reduce more than 20 lbs. of ore, and this yields from 7 lbs. to 10 lbs. of good metal.

Iron.

Fine quality of Ceylon iron.

Remains of ancient furnaces.

CEYLON.

Manganese.
Chrome.

Manganese is also found in considerable quantity, though not in such abundance as iron, and the low price of the article does not hold out any inducement to work it.

Chrome is met with mostly as chromate of iron. It is found also of similar character to that of Baltimore and the Ural. It might cost when brought to Colombo 3*d.* per lb., whilst the value in England is represented to be about 9*d.*

Nickel and Cobalt.

Nickel, in the form of an arseniate, is found interspersed with many other ores in the alluvium of this district; it exists in small flat pieces resembling copper. It might be profitably exported to China, where it is of value as a colouring matter. Nearly in the same state and quantity, and in similar positions, may be found *Cobalt*, another base, of a fine colour and of value.

Tin.

The *tin* ores are also found in the alluvium just below the strata of precious stones. The locality most favourable for the existence of tin is decidedly in the eastern side of the district, along the base of the high mountain zone, and especially near the Edelgassina pass. To work tin mines here with success, it will be necessary, I anticipate, either to reduce the height of the rivers or to employ powerful pumps in each mine, so plentiful is the water, and at so high a level. The position in which this ore has been met with is precisely similar to that of the ore in Saxony and Siberia, with tourmaline, white topaz, firrioni, garnet, and korundum.

Titan and Wolfram.

Titan and *wolfram* ores are likewise found in the alluvium and in the iron and tin ores. They are used in porcelain manufactures as colours, forming a rich brown, a sheel green, and sheel yellow.

Molybdena.

Next in abundance to iron exists *molybdena*, in the Saffragam district. It is to be met with dispersed through all the varieties of rocks, and throughout the alluvium in small grey scales, so nearly resembling plumbago that it is commonly taken for it. It is chiefly found in a state of bisulphuret in the Cambrian and Devonian strata. The ore was used in the 16th century for the manufacture of pencils, and at a later date to assist in working brass, bronze, and iron it has never been in general use. It might be obtained in large quantities in the neighbourhood for statues, &c.; but it has been hitherto found so sparingly, and the price has been so high, that it has never been in general use. It might be obtained in large quantities in the neighbourhood of Kalturta, Godagamoia, Ballatotte, and Komdrugalla.

Tellurum.

The very rare and valuable metal, called *tellur*, is also to be found in these vicinities. It has only hitherto been met with in Transylvania and the Ural mountains; it is used for chemical purposes only, and not long since bore the same price as gold in Europe.

Plumbago.

Plumbago, or *graphite*, is found chiefly in the southern side of Saffragam, in the Kukulo Korle. It is believed to belong to the same formation as the anthracite, viz., to the upper stratas of the Devonian formation. The principal mine is at Nambepane, and contains a large vein running from north-west to south-east. The ore is pure and chrystalline near the basalt, and compact and massive further from it. I believe that this vein extends to a distance of 40 or 50 miles towards the Bintenne country. The plumbago of Ceylon is pure and light, and now that a method has been discovered to purify and to compress it, the value will rise, especially as it is now required in the new process of smelting ores by galvanism. For this purpose it might prove a valuable export to South Australia.

Anthracite.

Anthracite may be found in precisely similar situation with plumbago. Indeed, whilst the latter is the metallic carbon, the former is a hydrate of carbon. Just as plumbago is found near the basaltic eruptions, so is anthracite found. Both contain the same foreign substances, viz., quartz, alumine, magnesia, titan, chrome, manganese, and iron. It is my opinion that this substance exists, as abundantly as does plumbago. I recommend exploring the country for it near the Bentotte river, half way between Galle and Colombo, and I believe that it might be produced for 18*s.* the ton, whilst English coal cannot be laid down under 28*s.* It is recommended to burn half anthracite and half coal, and now that large quantities of fuel are monthly required by the steamers touching at Point de Galle, this becomes a subject of importance.

Nitre.

Nitre has long been known to exist in Ceylon, and Davy, in his account of the island, describes it and its localities. I think that it exists in sufficient abundance to form an article of export, and that it would be good policy on the part of the Executive to encourage any undertaking of the sort by liberal terms of renting the spots found to contain nitre. The localities where the production is met with appear to be very similar to those in Brazil. In Saffragam there are about 60 caverns, varying in extent from 100 to 20,000 cubic feet. The abundance of wood to be found near these spots would appear to favour the lixiviation of nitre, and by their being situated within short distances of water conveyance, the produce could be economically conveyed to Colombo for purification and shipment.

Kaolin.

Kaolin is met with in great abundance throughout the district, varying in quantity from small strata to large rocks, and also in all degrees of purity. The cheapness of this article in Europe alone prevents it from becoming one of great value for export. The best earths yield from 40 to 70 per cent. of the pure article. It makes a ware very similar to the Wedgewood, when well prepared, and a superior kind of tile, capable of receiving all colours, might be formed with it, especially as we have around such abundance of colouring materials for imparting any tint required. The coloured tiles found in the Moorish Palaces in Spain are of this earth, and they are as fresh now as when made. The vicinity of anthracite to burn them, and navigable rivers for their conveyance, are all in favour of the manufacture, which would be infinitely preferable to the common porous bricks now in use in Ceylon for floors of dwelling-houses, both as regards appearance and healthiness.

Steatite.
Lime.

Steatite, or French chalk, is found, but not very pure, nor in great abundance.

Limestone is found abundantly. Marble may be met with, but not of great purity.

So rich is the soil of many parts of Ceylon in precious stones, that despite the explorations which have been carried on for so many centuries, there is still an incredible quantity in Saffra-

gam. They consist chiefly of the ruby, blue and yellow sapphire, chrysoberille, topaz, tourmaline, spinell, garnett, cinnamon stone, and opal. Amongst all these the proportion of really valuable stones is comparatively small, still many are to be found of great brilliancy and beauty.

Great numbers of persons of very indifferent character employ their whole time in searching and gambling for precious stones, and the villagers are addicted to it to an excess which interferes prejudicially with the cultivation of their Paddy and other lands. It is a pursuit in every way hurtful to the character of the people generally, and the district would benefit much could the search be kept, as formerly, in the hands of a licensed few. It is estimated that from this district alone, exclusively of a large demand within the island, stones to the actual value of 4000*l.* or 5000*l.* are annually exported, of which Government receives no share whatever.

From the low state of civilization of the natives, they cannot be expected to take any active part in the developement of the mineral resources of the country. Their dislike to labour is painfully manifested and is not likely to be overcome, so long as they can obtain a living by searching or gambling for precious stones. Whilst this source of subsistence is left to them, they will not trouble themselves to undertake any mining operations; and it can only be by the aid of European industry, energy, and skill, that the natural wealth of this district is ever likely to be opened up. But it is not the people alone who prove obstacles to mineralogical researches and labour; the country itself from its very nature offers impediments of a serious kind; the luxuriance of the vegetation, even amongst the most rocky parts of the district, renders any correct and continuous examination of the face of the country tedious and difficult. But the greatest impediment to mining operations will prove to be the high level of the rivers, especially of the Kalu-Ganga, and until this can be reduced, which it may be by blasting rocks at the various falls, we cannot hope to prosecute such operations successfully, or at least not to any practical extent. The most encouraging portions of this district for minerals appear to be the eastward, where there is great promise of plumbago, anthracite, and iron. As to lead and copper, these ores might be more reasonably looked for there than in the higher range of mountains; and tin ore, as has been before remarked, appears to be met with in quantity towards the higher zone near the Edelgasena Pass.

In the course of my explorations, a number of resins and colouring articles have been found of an entirely novel character, and some likely to prove of commercial value; but as yet sufficient time has not elapsed to allow of their being carefully analysed, a process which is now occupying my attention, and which, in this country, where the means and appliances are not abundant, proves often a most difficult and tedious undertaking.

(Signed)

RUDOLPH GYGAX.

(A true Copy.)

J. EMERSON TENNENT.

Colombo, June 30, 1848.

APPENDIX No. 3.

Appendix No. 3.

Report of the Master Attendant on the Pearl Banks.

(No. 16.)

Master Attendant's Office, Colombo,
April 3, 1848.

SIR,

HAVING returned to Colombo on the 31st ultimo from an inspection of the Pearl Banks lying off the south-west coast of the Northern province, I have the honour to transmit, with this my report, the diary kept by the Adapanaar of the pearl fishery and the other headmen employed under my direction during the examination of the banks, which diary concludes with the collective opinion of these respectable headmen in regard to the prospect of future pearl fisheries.

I left Colombo on the 28th February in the Government steam-vessel "Seaforth," accompanied by two sailing boats, the "Barge" and the "William," of my department, for the purpose of ascertaining the state of the Pearl Banks, which have, at intervals, from a remote period, been productive of pearl fisheries, and particularly during nine years of my service under the Government of Ceylon.

Since the last pearl fishery in the year 1837, the state of the Pearl Banks has been very discouraging; even now, I cannot hold out a certainty of a succession of pearl fisheries; but I feel encouraged to look forward to such desirable result consequent on their present more promising condition, there being pearl oysters of various ages, under five years, thinly scattered over much of the ground which I have successfully fished in past years; but more particularly as there are two deposits of pearl oyster-brood of considerable extent, one on the north-west and one on the south-west part of the bank called the Chival Paar. The Chival Paar has been long famous for producing the finest pearl; if therefore the brood now resting on it should not be destroyed by voracious fishes or other accidental causes, we may expect, in due time, to derive revenue from pearls, notwithstanding we have not found any oyster during this inspection old enough to produce them.

The weather has been peculiarly favourable for the divers to work. I have every reason to believe they have done their work faithfully, and that the information obtained from them, through the Adapanaars, respecting the state of the Pearl Banks, may be depended on. The Adapanaars, both in their report which accompanies this, and in their verbal communications

CEYLON.

to me, have expressed their favourable impression respecting the improved state of the Pearl Banks, and they recommend, that the "oyster spawn should be protected without being disturbed." It may be necessary that I should explain, that it is not from any apprehensions of the Pearl Banks being plundered that they should have protection; but for the purpose of preventing trading vessels casting their anchors on the oyster-beds, and thereby destroying the fish, and for preventing fishermen using nets, for catching edible fishes on the Pearl Banks, which also catch and destroy the oyster spawn before it settles down upon the banks. The Adapanaars are also opposed to frequent examinations, which they believe disturbs the young oysters and is therefore injurious.

The Adapanaars being left at Arippe, were not present when the "Seaforth" was on the coast of the island of Delft, therefore their diary makes no mention of some oysters of about four years and a half old, being found on the northern side of that island, resembling very closely those fished up in 1844 and 1845 near Jaffna, which yielded no pearl of sufficient value to pay the expenses of fishing them up. Whenever another inspection of the Pearl Banks should be decided on, it would be desirable that the coasts of Delft Island should be included. I incline to the opinion expressed by the Adapanaars, that inspection of the Pearl Banks lying off Arippe should not be too frequently repeated, but I would recommend a search for pearl oysters being made, next north-east monsoon, on the west coast of Ceylon, from the Arippe Pearl Banks down to the vicinity of Colombo.

I herewith transmit a box containing samples of the pearl oysters found on the banks, among which is a specimen of some oyster brood found floating on to the sea beach near Calpentyn.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

JAMES STEWART, Master Attendant.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(A true Copy.)

J. EMERSON TENNENT.

APPENDIX No. 4.

CEYLON.—ABSTRACT of the RETURNS of the CASH BALANCES of the General Treasury and of the Six Provincial Cutcherries of Ceylon on the last Day of each of the Months of October, November, and December, 1847.

	Gold.	Silver.	Copper.	Notes.	Total.	Deduct Deposits.	Total in each of the Cutcherries for purposes of Government in each Month.			Grand Total for Government purposes throughout the Island in		
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	October.	November.	December.
General Treasury :—												
October . . . . .	.	19,352 9 1	6,320 2 3½	11,197 0 0	36,869 11 4½	.	36,869 11 4½	36,869 11 4½	.	36,869 11 4½	39,601 5 0	.
November . . . . .	.	19,918 4 0	6,215 1 0	13,468 0 0	39,601 5 0	.	39,601 5 0	.	.	.	.	.
December . . . . .	.	41,805 11 0	9,609 16 8½	27,147 0 0	78,562 7 8½	22,527 9 0½	56,034 18 7½	.	.	.	.	56,034 18 7½
Western Province :—												
October . . . . .	.	3,964 5 4	33 4 4	1,464 0 0	5,461 9 8	1,794 5 11½	3,667 3 8½	3,667 3 8½	.	3,667 3 8½	4,225 16 10½	.
November . . . . .	.	4,710 4 0	3 0 0½	1,450 0 0	6,163 4 0½	1,937 7 1½	4,225 16 10½	.	.	.	.	.
December . . . . .	.	3,406 19 0	0 1 11	1,898 0 0	5,305 0 11	2,000 3 3½	3,304 17 7½	.	.	.	.	3,304 17 7½
North Western Province :—												
October	26 0 0	3,406 6 0	115 10 3½	918 0 0	4,465 16 3½	1,146 12 7	3,319 3 8½	3,319 3 8½	.	3,319 3 8½	5,467 19 5½	.
November	26 0 0	5,331 8 6	104 9 3½	1,225 0 0	6,687 17 9½	1,218 18 3½	5,467 19 5½	.	.	.	.	.
December	26 0 0	3,337 4 0	67 8 4	730 0 0	4,160 12 4	505 3 11	3,655 8 5	.	.	.	.	3,655 8 5
Southern Province :—												
October . . . . .	.	9,203 3 0	78 12 8½	2,268 0 0	11,549 15 8½	3,976 11 10½	7,582 8 9½	7,582 8 9½	.	7,582 8 9½	9,957 4 9½	.
November . . . . .	.	11,001 2 0	204 1 3½	2,455 0 0	13,660 3 3½	3,702 18 6½	9,957 4 9½	.	.	.	.	.
December . . . . .	.	9,429 11 0	187 17 4	3,759 0 0	13,376 8 4	3,425 15 4	9,950 13 0	.	.	.	.	9,950 13 0
Eastern Province :—												
October . . . . .	.	816 6 0	105 12 3½	1,892 0 0	2,813 18 3½	1,217 12 3½	1,596 5 11½	1,596 5 11½	.	1,596 5 11½	1,185 3 5½	.
November . . . . .	.	267 0 0	75 15 5	1,783 0 0	2,125 15 5	940 11 11½	1,185 3 5½	.	.	.	.	.
December . . . . .	.	124 13 0	38 19 4½	1,161 0 0	1,324 12 4½	837 7 9½	487 4 7½	.	.	.	.	487 4 7½
Northern Province :—												
October . . . . .	.	2,191 2 10	2,733 4 7½	5,178 0 0	10,102 7 5½	.	10,102 7 5½	10,102 7 5½	.	10,102 7 5½	10,768 14 11	.
November . . . . .	.	2,347 4 4	2,901 10 7	5,520 0 0	10,768 14 11	.	10,768 14 11	.	.	.	.	.
December . . . . .	.	1,921 16 8	3,052 9 11½	4,807 0 0	9,781 6 7½	.	9,781 6 7½	.	.	.	.	9,781 6 7½
Central Province :—												
October . . . . .	.	10,283 19 0	673 8 1½	4,646 0 0	15,603 7 1½	1,154 10 11	14,448 16 2½	14,448 16 2½	.	14,448 16 2½	9,318 12 2	.
November . . . . .	.	7,303 15 1	564 19 6	4,220 0 0	12,088 14 7	2,770 2 5	9,318 12 2	9,318 12 2	.	9,318 12 2	.	.
December . . . . .	.	4,623 5 1	369 8 8	2,647 0 0	7,639 13 9	.	7,639 13 9	7,639 13 9	.	.	.	7,639 13 9
							Deduct Government Notes on hand					
							Total Coin					
							77,585 12 3			80,524 11 7½		
							27,563 0 0			30,121 0 0		
							50,022 12 3			50,403 11 7½		
							59,837			59,837		
							57,279			57,279		
							45,251			45,251		

(A true Copy.) J. EMERSON TENNENT.

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CEYLON.

No. 35.

No. 35.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Viscount TORRINGTON to Earl GREY.

Queen's House, Colombo, July 5, 1848.

(Received August 28, 1848.)

The coffee bug.

In my general Despatch I have alluded to the ravages produced by rats [in the coffee plantations], and the still more formidable destruction caused by the invasions of the coffee bug. With regard to the latter, I now send the reports made to me by Dr. Gardner, the Superintendent of the Royal Botanic Garden at Peradenia, from which your Lordship will perceive the extent of danger to be apprehended from this visitation, and the mystery which still invests the causes of its coming, the probable duration of its stay, or the means of its removal.

Its ravages.

In the mean time the effects are most serious; our estate has been reported to me in which the production of a single season, which calculated upon that of the previous one, ought to have been 2000 cwt., fell suddenly to 700 cwt., the difference being destroyed in a few months by the bug, and to the present hour no improvement has taken place in its condition. Others have been more or less unfortunate. In some the insect has disappeared partially, and partially returned, and, in some few, whence it has entirely passed away. The trees are now covered with fresh and healthy leaves and promise an abundant harvest, but unfortunately we are not in a condition to pronounce when this may not again be blighted by another visit from the bug.

Encl. in No. 33.

Enclosure in No. 35.

REPORT on the COFFEE BLIGHT of CEYLON, by GEORGE GARDNER, F.L.S.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradenia,
July 4, 1848.

SIR,

AGREEABLY to the instructions contained in your letter to me of the 12th ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that I have visited the coffee districts therein mentioned, and collected such information as I have been able regarding the nature, history, and effects of the "brown scale," or "bug," which for some years past has been infesting the coffee estates of the central province; and now beg leave to lay before you, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, the following report:—

As it would be impossible to understand thoroughly the effects which the insect produces, without having a knowledge of its structure and functions, I shall, in the first instance, detail these, at least so much of them as I have been able to determine.

General character
of the coffee
"scale" or "bug."

The first thing that attracts ones attention on looking at a coffee-tree which has for some time been infested with the "bug," is the number of brownish coloured wart-like bodies that stud the young shoots, and occasionally the margins of the under side of the leaves. Each of these warts or scales is a transformed female "bug," containing a large number of eggs, which are hatched within it. When the young ones come out from their nest they run about over the plant, looking very much like small woodlice, and at this period of their lives there is no distinction between the male and the female.

Shortly after being hatched the males generally seek the under side of the leaves, while the females prefer the young shoots as a place of abode. In these localities they attach themselves to the cuticle of the plant, for the purpose of undergoing certain transformations, which, being different in the two sexes, will require to be described separately.

Description of the
male.

If the under surface of a young leaf of an infected coffee tree be examined with the naked eye it will be found to be studded, particularly on its lower half, with a number of minute yellowish white-coloured specks of an oblong form. These are the *larvæ* of the males being transformed into *pupæ* beneath their own skin. Some of these specks are always in a more perfect state than others, the full grown ones being of a whitish colour, and scarcely a line long. Of those which are of this size some have a much more translucent appearance than others; and if examined with a magnifier, will be found to be empty, the perfect animal having made its escape from it; but if the darker coloured ones are examined in the same manner the nearly perfect insect will be found within it. In this state the animal is of an oblong form, of a yellowish colour, with the rudiment of a wing on each side attached to the lower part of the thorax, and closely applied to the sides. It has six legs, the four hind ones being directed backwards, and the two anterior ones forwards. It has two antennæ, which are directed backwards, and from the tail protrude three short bristles, the middle one of which is both thicker and larger than the other two.

When the transformation has been completed, and the insect has reached its maturity, it makes its way out from beneath the pellucid case by which it was covered. All its organs have then reached their full size. The head is somewhat of a globular form, with two rather prominent black eyes in front, and two long antennæ, each with 11 joints, hairy throughout, and with a tuft of a few longer hairs at their apices. The legs are also hairy. The wings are horizontal, of an obovate oblong shape, membranous, and a little longer than the bristles of

the tail. They have only two nerves, neither of which reach so far as the tips. One of them runs close to the external margin, and is much thicker than the other, which runs at some distance from the internal margin. Being possessed of wings, the full grown male is much less seldom seen on the coffee bushes than the female.

The female, like the male, attaches herself to the surface of the plant, the place selected being usually the young shoots, but she is also to be met with on the margins of the under side of the leaves. On the upper surface neither male nor female ever attach themselves. But unlike the male, which derives no nourishment from the juices of the plant, the female, as soon as she has fixed herself, punctures the cuticle with a proboscis which she has on her chest, and by which she abstracts the juices that nourish her. In the early pupa state of the female she is easily distinguished from the male, by being more elliptical, and much more convex.

Description of the female.

As she increases in size the skin extends and becomes smooth and dry, the rings of the body become effaced, and losing entirely the form of an insect, she has for some time a yellowish postular-like shape, but ultimately becomes of a roundish-conical form, and of a dark-brown colour. Until she has reached nearly her full size, she still possesses the power of locomotion, and her six feet are easily distinguishable on the under surface of her corpulent body; but at no period of her existence has she wings.

It is about the period of attaining her full size that impregnation takes place, after which the scale becomes somewhat more conical, assumes a darker colour, and, at length, if permanently fixed to the surface of the plant by means of a cottony substance interposed between it and the cuticle to which it adheres.

The scale, when full grown, exactly resembles in miniature the hat of a Cornish miner, there being a narrow rim at the base which gives increased surface for attachment. It is about one line and a half in diameter by about one line deep, and appears perfectly smooth to the naked eye; but when examined with a powerful magnifier, it is found to be studded with very minute warts, which at first sight gives it a dotted appearance. It is entirely destitute of hairs, except the margin of the rim which is ciliated.

The number of eggs contained in one of these scales is enormous, amounting in one which I counted to no less than 691. The eggs are of an oblong shape, of a pale flesh colour, and perfectly smooth. In some of the scales which I have examined, the eggs had just been hatched, and, when laid in the field of the microscope, exactly resembled those masses of life so often seen in dry old cheeses.

One or more small yellow maggots are sometimes found mixed with the eggs, which are no doubt the larvæ of some other insect the eggs of which had been deposited when the scale was soft.

The insect, I find, belongs to the genus *coccus*, and is therefore a congener of that which produces the cochineal of commerce. So far as the only books * within my reach enable me to judge, it seems to be the *coccus aspidum* of Linnæus, which he mentions as being common on evergreen trees in Asia, such as the camellia, &c. He gives no description of the male, but his character of the female agrees pretty well with the coffee one, except in being less conical in the scale state. If not the same, it is a very nearly allied species.

Name of the "coffee bug."

It is not till after the pest has been on an estate for two or three years that it shows itself to any alarming extent. During the first year only a few of the ripe scales are seen scattered over the bushes, generally on the younger shoots, sometimes on the margins of the under side of the leaves; but, should the trees be in bearing, most commonly on the footstalks of the berries. The crop this season does not suffer much, and the appearance of the tree is scarcely altered: the following year, however, brings a change for the worse with it. The scales are found to have become more numerous, and if the young shoots and the under side of the leaves are examined, they will be found to be covered with numberless white specks, which prove to be the young scales in a more or less forward state. The clusters of berries have assumed a black smutty appearance, to have a more numerous crop of scales than during the previous year; and, if the clusters are watched, it will be found that a number of their berries fall off before coming to maturity. The general health of the tree now also begins to fail, and it acquires a blighted appearance: a loss of crop is sustained, but not to any extent.

Manner in which the trees are affected by it.

The third year brings about a still greater change. The whole plant has then assumed a deep black colour, having all the appearance of soot having been thrown over it in great quantities. This colour is caused by the growth of a black parasitic fungus on the young shoots, and the upper surfaces of the leaves, where it forms a thin fibrous coating, not unlike a piece of velvet or felt. When this substance is examined with a powerful microscope, it is found to consist of a dense interlaced mesh of fibres, each made up of a single series of minute oblong vesicles applied end to end. This fungus, I find, belongs to the genus *antennaria*, and believe it to be an undescribed species. It never makes its appearance on the tree till after the *coccus* or "bug" has been a long time on it, and is no doubt produced by the unhealthy state to which the plant has been reduced, owing to the vitiation of its juices by the insect. As certainly as the scale now appears on the upper surface of the leaf, so surely does the *antennaria* or fungus never appear on the under one.

Cause of the black colour of diseased coffee plants.

At this period the young shoots have an exceedingly disgusting look, from the dense mass of yellowish pustular-like scales that are forming on them. The leaves, in consequence of the abstraction of their juices alike by the animal and the vegetable parasite, become shrivelled and evidently diminished in size; and the trees, which, in their healthy state, appeared to cover the

Worst stage of the coffee blight.

* These are the 13th edition of the "Systema Naturæ" of Linnæus, in the Garden Library, and Deshayes' and Milne Edwards' edition of Lamarck's "Animaux Sans Vertèbres," in my own; but the former is now upwards of half a century old, and the latter contains descriptions of only a very few species of *coccus*. It is much to be desired that the Garden Library contained a good modern work on Entomology.

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Ants frequent diseased trees.

ground, now seem to stand out singly. On the best trees thus infested, more than two-thirds of the crop is lost, and, on many, scarcely a berry is to be seen.

On trees thus diseased, immense numbers of a small black species of ant are found crowding those portions of the plant on which the young scales are most abundant. By the managers of some estates, it was suggested to me that there might be some connexion between the two animals; but there is nothing further than the fact, that the ants puncture the scales for the sake of the fluid matter within them, and in this way they no doubt prevent numbers from coming to perfection.

A white *coccus* found on coffee trees.

Besides the "scale," there is another species of *coccus* sometimes found on coffee trees, but never to the same extent as the other. The female of this kind never changes into a scale, but wraps herself up in a white cottony matter after impregnation, and there producing her eggs, dies. It has sometimes been observed on coffee estates previous to the appearance of the scale, but there is evidently no connexion between them.

History of the scale *coccus* of the coffee.

So far as I have been able to ascertain, the coffee trees of the island were never affected with the "scale" till the year 1843, when Captain Robertson first observed it on a few coffee bushes on his estate called Lapallagalla. This estate, together with a few others, is situated immediately on the western boundary of the great central mountain range overlooking the country of the Four Korles, and the tract is known by the name of the Muruta district. Since then the pest has been gradually progressing eastwards through the Dolisbagie, Ambegamoa, Kotmalee, Pusilava, Deltotte, Hunisgiria, and Knuckles districts; but having only appeared within the last two years in the latter places, its ravages have not yet reached to the same extent in them as in the former ones.

Origin.

The cause of the first appearance of the "scale" on coffee bushes I found to be variously accounted for. Captain Robertson's neighbours attribute its first introduction to the island to his having imported it on some Mocha coffee plants that he brought from Bombay. The superintendent of one of the estates near to Captain Robertson's having first seen it on some vigorous plants near the Coolie lines, ascribed its production to the rich manure supplied by the Coolies. Others, such as Mr. Anstruther, believe it to be spontaneous in its origin, and that bad planting, allowing water to accumulate about the roots of the plant, has been the original cause of its production.

Supposed by the natives to be indigenous.

That the *coccus* of the coffee is considered by the natives to be indigenous there can be no doubt, but the evidence on which they found their belief does not appear to be sufficiently strong. By Mr. Jayetileke Modliar Kandy, a most intelligent native, who is passionately fond of agricultural and horticultural pursuits, I am informed that he has known the "bug" for many years as a pest on the fruit trees of the native villagers, such as the guava; but that he has never known it to spread to the extent that it has done during the last few years. By Captain Robertson I was likewise informed that when he pointed it out to the natives they seemed to be familiar with it. Mr. Little of the Dahanyke estate, in the Ambegamoa, told me that he had seen it abundantly on a guava tree, near his house, in the year 1843, the same year in which it appeared at Captain Robertson's, and two years before any of his own coffee trees became affected. The villagers, he said, seems to be well acquainted with it, and told him that it generally made its appearance every three or four years. I must, however, observe, that I have questioned my head gardener, and the draughtsman attached to the garden, on the subject, and although both of them have been connected with the garden for the last 20 years, and consequently likely either to have seen or heard of such a thing, yet neither of them remember anything of the "coffee bug" till within the last few years, though they have long been well acquainted with somewhat similar, but very different, species inhabiting other kinds of trees. This is a fact worthy of being kept in view, as the draughtsman is a person who has a keen eye for distinctions among natural objects, and therefore less likely to be mistaken than common observers, particularly native ones, who most probably confound the true "coffee bug" with other kinds well known to be indigenous.

Other species of "bug" indigenous to Ceylon.

In the course my present investigations I have met with a number of nearly allied species of scale *coccus* inhabiting different kinds of trees and plants, some of which have spread this season to a very great extent. Nearly all the oleandus in the Peradenia garden are at present overrun with a kind of "scale" much larger and flatter than the coffee one, which, when it comes to maturity, becomes enveloped in a tuft of white cottony matter. Its effects on the tree are quite the same as that of the coffee one, the upper surface of the leaves, and the young shoots becoming even more densely covered with the black matter that gives such a dismal look to the plants. The same species also infests the *Thevetia neriifolia*, and the buddist tree (*Plumeria acuminata*), all the three plants possessing a milky juice. Another species about the same size as the last, but a little more convex, destitute of cottony matter, but exuding a gummy kind of matter round the part it adheres to, is very common at present on the *Gendarussa vulgaris*, the *Kalutraraniya* of the Singalese. A much larger species than either of these was pointed out to me on the Honourable Mr. Fortescue's estate at Kotmalee, inhabiting the leaves of the large green aloe (*Furcraea gigantea*). Another kind infests the jack, another the mango; and one different from all these has just been brought to me from Dambool, adhering to the branch of a lantana.

The coffee *Coccus* now infests other kinds of trees.

During my recent excursion it was ascertained that the coffee *coccus* now exists very abundantly on many other sorts of trees, giving them the same appearance and producing the same effect on them. Thus I have observed it on the lime, the guava, the myrtle, the rose, *Careya arbovea*, and *vitix negundo*, the two last common roadside trees. It seems, however, very certain that until within the last five years it has not been known to attack the coffee plant. In most of the districts that I have just visited the coffee trees of the villagers were found to be quite as much affected as those on plantations. In the botanic garden at Peradenia there is

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scarcely a tree that is not infested to a degree. It is, therefore, scarcely possible not to believe that, had the insect been in existence in Ceylon previous to the present epidemic, its effects must have been observed at one period or another on the native coffee.

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Some managers of estates believe the *coccus* to have been introduced to them on young coffee plants brought from native villages, but on questioning them I found that they had no better grounds for their belief than supposition. On Mr. Fairholme's estate at Dimboola it was first seen, about two years ago, on a single bush in the only part of it that is planted with village plants. The bush was taken up and burned, and no "bug" has since appeared on that part of the estate. Had the pest been brought from the village, it is not at all probable that it would have been confined to a single plant.

Supposed to have been conveyed to estates on village plants.

If, as Mr. Anstruther supposes, the nature of the soil and bad planting have anything to do with its origin, Captain Robertson's estate of Lapallagalla is one of the most likely I have seen in Ceylon to have given birth to it, or, if not that, at least to have afforded it an excellent field on which to begin its ravages. The soil of it, as well as of nearly all the surrounding estates, is of a stiff clayey nature, and, consequently, the holes that were dug for the young plants must have acted like pots without outlets to contain the moisture that drained into them from the surface; and that they must have been well supplied with moisture is certain, from the fact that the district is one of the most rainy in the island. The roots of the plants must also have found great difficulty in penetrating through the sides of the holes, and, indeed, the whole appearance of the trees shows that matters are not going on well with them at bottom. Nearly all of them have a lanky look, throw out few or no lateral shoots from their lower branches, and, on an average, only yield at the best of times from four to five cwt. of coffee per acre, or about one-half of the usual crop of average estates in other districts.

Supposed spontaneous origin.

On nearly all those estates where I have been able to trace the rise and progress of the epidemic, the *coccus* has been first observed in moist hollow places sheltered from the wind, and from thence has spread itself in all directions, even over the driest and most exposed localities. This is not, however, universal, as on a few estates, such as those of Pen-y-lan and Dakanyke, it first appeared on dry exposed places. That it prefers moist sheltered situations is certain, as, on the Lapallagalla and Nuruta estates, which, about a year ago, had become nearly free of the pest, it still clung in a very obvious manner to those trees that were situated by the side of little streams of water in hollows and ravines.

Localities which the *coccus* prefers.

The extent of the injury caused by the epidemic was found to vary considerably in the different districts visited, but was always more or less in proportion to the length of time it had been first observed.

Extent of injury caused by the *coccus*.

In the Muruta district some important information was obtained with regard to the course which the epidemic runs. Thus on the Lapallagalla estate, where it was first observed in 1843, it did not reach its maximum till 1846, when the whole estate was covered with the *coccus*, and its accompanying black smut or fungus. During the two first years of its existence little loss of crop was sustained, but in 1845 and 1846 the loss was upwards of two-thirds of what should have been produced had the trees been healthy. In 1847 both the "scale" and the smut began gradually to disappear, and, before the end of the year, it is said that scarcely a vestige of it was to be seen. The seeds of it, however, seem to have been left behind in no small quantity, as the trees are again this season overrun with the "scale," and almost everywhere, but more particularly in hollows and ravines where the soil is moist, the smut is again blackening the trees.

Course which the epidemic runs. Muruta district.

On the estate called Muruta, about a mile to the westward of Lapallagalla, the epidemic has run through a similar course, but from being a season in arrear now presents a somewhat different appearance. This estate first began to show symptoms of the pest in 1844. During that and the following year it did not cause much damage, but in 1846 it had extended over nearly the whole of the plantation, and about two-thirds of the produce was lost on those portions that were worst affected. In 1847 it disappeared in a great measure, but the trees had received such a shock that those growing on the least fertile parts of the estate yielded almost no crop, but those on better soil, and therefore more able to recover themselves, produced an average one. This season the trees at a distance appear to have become quite free of the pest, having nearly regained their usual green colour, and the crop promises to be a fair one for the district; but when the young branches and the foot-stalks of the fruit are closely examined, the scale in its different stages is still found to be there, and as they multiply in such excessive numbers, the probability is that the estate next year will be exactly in the same state that Lapallagalla is this season; indeed, in the hollows many patches of black are even now to be seen.

Of three or four other estates that were passed through in this quarter on my way to Dolisbagie, the next district, no precise information could be obtained, as none of the superintendents had been longer than a few months on them. All of them, however, were found to be perfectly overrun with the pest; large patches of acres in extent being very visible in the whole of them.

One of these estates, called Diabetmia, was suffering from another evil, the rat; and it was painful to witness the ravages they were committing. A large patch of coffee bushes stretching along a flat at the bottom of a bare rocky hill had so many of their branches cut off and lying on the ground that it seemed as if some one had gone through, pruning them with a knife; and many of the branches thus lopped were fine healthy shoots, covered with fruit. In the adjoining woods I found the *niloo*—an acanthaceous shrub, on the pith of the young shoots of which the rats are said to live—to be all dead. The same I found also to be the case last year at Rambodde, where the rats were committing similar destruction. As the *niloo* is a plant that forms a great proportion of the underwood of our mountain forests, and

Ravages of the rat.

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as it flowers only once in every five or six years, and then dies down, the rat will most probably be found to be a regular periodical enemy to the coffee plantations, at least to those bordering on forests.

Dolisbagie district.

The first estate visited in Dolisbagie was Pen-y-lau. There the pest did not show itself till about the setting in of the monsoon in the early part of 1846. It first appeared on the top of a ridge exposed to the wind, and on the opposite side of the estate to that on which the Muruta estates are situated, the distance between them being about six miles. Here the extension of the pest was so rapid, and so virulent in its nature, that in the first year of its having been noticed, 1846, it was estimated that a fourth of the whole crop was lost. After the rains of 1847, it began to disappear, some trees becoming perfectly free, but in low sheltered situations it still continued nearly as bad as ever. The trees suffered so much from the previous year's attack, that scarcely any crop was obtained. Thus, from one patch consisting of about seven acres, only 100 bushels of green coffee were picked. A tolerably fair crop was promised at the beginning of the present season, but at the period of my visit, the pest had become nearly as bad as ever, and will, no doubt, destroy a large portion of it, before it has time to ripen.

Barnagalla and Raxava, two other estates that were passed through in this district, were both found to be suffering to a considerable extent.

Ambegama district.

In the Ambegama district, the first estate visited was Wevely-Talawa. From the superintendent I could get no information concerning it, as he had only been in charge for a short time; but from a gentleman who accompanied me to it, I learned that in 1846, the pest was ravaging it to a fearful extent, and that a heavy loss of crop was sustained. At present the trees seem to be tolerably free of the "scale," but on examination it was found still to exist, and a few black patches were here and there to be seen through the estate.

On Weraloo-gastane, about six miles distant, in a northerly direction, the pest was first seen about two years ago, but as yet its ravages have not been extensive. At present about one-fourth of the estate is affected, and beginning to get black; but Mr. Anstruther, to whom it belongs, says, that he is checking its progress by sprinkling finely-pounded saltpetre mixed with lime-dust on the trees.

On the Dahanyke estate, about four miles further north, towards Kotmalee, the *coccus* was first seen in May, 1845, on a single tree near the Bungalaw, which stands on an elevated exposed situation. In 1846, it spread over about six acres round the spot where it first appeared. In 1847, it disappeared to a considerable extent, but this season it has got worse again, and is now fast extending over the estate.

Kotmalee district.

My first object on reaching Kotmalee, was to visit the Harrangalla estate, as it was there that I first saw the effects of the pest in June, 1846. It had then only been observed about two months before, but had already extended over a patch of about an acre, in a hollow part of the estate, sheltered from the monsoon. Since then it has gone on gradually increasing, and now extends over more than two-thirds of the whole estate, while the effect produced on the trees is much worse than anything I have seen elsewhere. It was truly painful to find that trees, which in a healthy state would produce from two to three pounds of coffee, were either entirely destitute of berries, or only producing a few shrivelled ones that will hardly repay the expense of collecting. I could not ascertain what the loss of crop had been during the last two years.

On the adjoining estate of Oonoo-galla, which is a much younger one, the *coccus* was first seen about the end of 1846, also in a moist hollow part of the estate. This season it has extended over about 30 acres.

Katooboole, and Kadien-Lena, two very large estates in this district, are suffering at present to an alarming extent, and the loss of crop will be something very great.

Dimboola district.

In the Dimboola district, the estates are all young, none of them having yet borne a crop. In all of them the *coccus* has been observed, but only to a trifling extent.

In the Puselavad district, the estates have been in bearing for two or three years, and all of them are more or less infested with the *coccus*, though not nearly to the same extent as the Kotmalee ones. The only one of them that I examined particularly is, that called the Rothschild estate, containing about 400 acres; and it, perhaps, is suffering to a greater extent than any of the others in the district. Here I found the history and effects of the pest to be much the same as elsewhere. It was first observed on a few bushes in a hollow sheltered part of the estate, where the soil is rich and rather swampy, about the beginning of 1846; and since then it has been gradually extending till the present time, when, in its different stages, it infests a large portion of the estate, though perhaps not more than 30 acres are in the worst stage, the loss of crop on which is estimated to be about two-thirds.

Hunisgiria range.

On the Hunisgiria range, which is situated to the north-east of Kandy, the pest did not make its appearance till about two years ago. Upwards of a dozen estates were visited, and on all of them I found the pest more or less to prevail. The Hunisgiria estate, which is the nearest to Kandy, and on the western side of the range, is that on which it first appeared, and the one also that has suffered most. As elsewhere, during the first year it did not cause either much apprehension or damage; but this season several large patches of acres in extent have become quite black. The only other badly infected estate in this district is that called Dotlegalla, several miles further north, and between which and the Hunisgiria estate there are two others but slightly infected. Here, however, no information regarding its origin or progress could be obtained, as a new superintendent had just taken charge of it. Between this estate and that of Cabragalla, at the north end of the range, as well as those on its eastern side, none of the estates have yet suffered, though on examination they were all found to possess the seeds of the pest.

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Influence of atmospheric changes on the *coccus*.

I have been particular in my inquiries into the effect which atmospheric changes produce on the habits and effects of the coffee *coccus*, but no very satisfactory information has been obtained. The general impression seems to be that it flourishes most luxuriantly in wet weather. What the effects of a continuance of drought would produce on the insect it is impossible to say, as during the last two years there has scarcely been any dry weather in the central province; and this continued moist state of both the atmosphere and the soil, I am inclined to believe, has had much to do with the prevalence of the epidemic. As the present season promises to be a dry one, it may perhaps check its progress to some extent.

Means of transmission from place to place.

Whatever may have been the origin of the *coccus*, it is certain that having once appeared, the rapidity with which it multiplies, and the immense number of eggs that each scale produces, will sufficiently account for the speed with which it extends. As the females do not possess wings, it is quite impossible that they can spread from tree to tree by flight. By means of their legs, however, they possess excellent powers of locomotion, and as at the opening of each "scale" to give egress to the young that have been hatched within it, hundreds of them must necessarily fall to the ground, many will, of course, take possession of adjoining trees. This seems to be the way in which the pest radiates from a centre to a circumference in those localities where it first appears on estates.

As regards its transmission from one place to another, there are many means by which it may be effected. Thus any one passing an infected tree will be sure to carry away with him hundreds of the minute young, unknown to himself, as they are all but imperceptible to the naked eye; and I should say that Coolies going from one estate to another have done more to extend the pest than anything else. The same end has no doubt also been effected by birds and large insects. In some of the estates that I have visited, the disease was first noticed near the Coolie lines; and where it broke out in single patches in the middle of estates, far from roads, birds have most likely carried the seeds. That the spread of the pest from west to east has been accomplished by transmission of the young females from place to place, is, I think, very probable.

Remedies used against the *coccus*.
At Lapallagalla.

Numerous are the remedies that have been made use of to check the progress of the blight, but none of them have had the desired effect. Thus, on the Lapallagalla estate applications of chloride of lime, lime-water, urine, and manuring with guano, have been tried and found wanting. Cutting down the trees, and close pruning them were also had recourse to in vain, as the young shoots soon become as bad as ever.

At Pen-y-lan.

At Pen-y-lan powdered lime thrown over the trees, rich manuring with horse-dung and rotten coffee-pulp, applications of urine, and tobacco fumigation, were tried without effect.

At Weraloo.
Saltpetre.

At Weraloo-gastane, Mr. Anstruther believes that he is checking the progress of the epidemic on his estate, by sprinkling the trees over with a mixture of equal parts of saltpetre and quicklime. Some trees which had been thus treated were pointed out to me, but as I had not seen them before the use of the remedy, it was impossible to form an opinion regarding its efficacy, especially as on examination abundance of the live "scale" was still found on the trees. Since my return to Peradenia, Mr. Anstruther has addressed the following letter to me on the subject.

"Ambegamoa, June 23, 1848.

"MY DEAR SIR,

"It occurs to me that perhaps I did not explain to you sufficiently how saltpetre can be most effectually used in destroying the coffee bug. It should be pounded as fine as possible, and dusted over the branches affected while the leaves are wet; it then adheres, and almost immediately melts. I have seen many instances of the success of the application since I had the pleasure of seeing you. My superintendents have tried other modes of application, and, they think, with success; such as simply applying it to the roots, or applying it mixed with manure.

"Yours very truly,
"P. ANSTRUTHER."

"Dr. Gardner, Peradenia."

With regard to this remedy I must, however, state, that immediately on my return to Peradenia, about 10 days ago, I selected two trees growing in a patch of mocha coffee, for the purpose of testing its effects. One of them was treated according to Mr. Anstruther's plan, the other carefully brushed over with a solution of saltpetre in water, of the strength of about an ounce to the pint. These trees have been daily watched, and in 10 days they are neither better nor worse than those by which they are surrounded.

Powdering the trees over with sulphur and wood-ashes has also been recommended, but this I have found to produce no effect.

At Puselava.
Cocoa-nut oil.

At Puselava the Messrs. Worms found that the application of cocoa-nut oil had the effect of destroying the *coccus*, but, finding that it destroyed the trees also, was abandoned. It is well known that all oily substances applied to insects, destroy them by preventing respiration; and, in the same manner, if applied to trees, especially the under side of their leaves their *stomata* or breathing pores are shut up, and death is the consequence.

Fumigation with sulphur has been recommended, but not yet, so far as I know, put to the test of experience in Ceylon; and some experiments which I am at present instituting with tar-water are not sufficiently advanced to be detailed.

Very doubtful if any remedy exists.

It is, however, very doubtful if any remedy will ever be discovered sufficiently cheap, and, at the same time, easy of application on the large scale it would require to be used on coffee estates. The hot-houses of England have long been infested by more than one species of *coccus*, and powders, washes, and fumigations of all kinds have again and again been had recourse to for their destruction, but seemingly without effect, as I find that Loudon in his "En-

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cyclopædia of Gardening," (Fifth Edition, p. 431) concludes an article on this subject in the following words :—" Brushing off these creatures is the only effectual remedy, and, if set about at once and persevered in, will save the trouble of many prescribed washes and powders, which are mere palliatives." This, of course, is out of the question on a coffee estate, unless, indeed, while the pest was still in its infancy ; but the productive powers of the insect being so great, and the means of spreading the infection so numerous, it is to be feared that such a plan would soon be found to be impracticable.

From all I have seen of the pest, I am inclined to believe, that is not under human controul ; and that if ever it disappears from the island, or at best becomes so much ameliorated in its effects as to be productive of but little injury to coffee estates, it will be by running itself out, as blights of a somewhat similar nature have been known to do in other countries. But whether this may prove to be the case with the *coccus* of the coffee is uncertain, as the experience of the last five years goes to prove its permanency.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE GARDNER, F.L.S.,
Superintendent Botanical Garden.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
Colombo.

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No. 36.

(No. 31.)

No. 36.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir J. DAVIS, Bart., to Earl GREY.

MY LORD,

Victoria, Hong Kong, February 26, 1848.
(Received April 22, 1848.)

I PROCEED to make my annual report on the Colonial Blue Book for the year 1847, being the fourth from the commencement.

Revenue.

The revenue of the last year increased, as compared with the preceding, from 22,242*l.* to 27,047*l.* The present year exhibits a further augmentation to 31,078*l.*

The analysis of this will show that it does not include a single item of taxation on the commerce of the port. The amount of 16,630*l.* has been derived from rents of lands, markets, and houses. The licenses to publicans, opium shops, pawnbrokers, &c., clear 6786*l.* These answer the purposes of police as well as revenue, including even the licence (or rather rent) of the stone quarries, and that of the salt contractor, who is answerable for the conduct of the Chinese, with whom he is concerned.

The police assessment, being 5 per cent. on the rent of inhabited houses, is 2240*l.* The remaining revenue consists of 4170*l.*, derived from the fees and fines of the courts, and official fees paid into the treasury ; and lastly, of miscellaneous sums, amounting in all to 1252*l.*

Notwithstanding the approval of the Board of Trade to the tax formerly laid on the consumption of opium I was induced, by the general impression that prevailed against it, to convert the monopoly in the hands of a single individual into licenses to any number of manufacturers and sellers of opium within the colony, as reported in my Despatch No. 82, of 23rd July, 1847. The principle of this latter tax being precisely that of licenses for selling wine, beer, and spirits, there can be no objections to the one which do not apply to the other. The advantages of both are, that they combine a tax on vicious indulgences with the means of control over those who provide them.

This brief account of the colonial revenue may serve to correct some mis-statements that were made before a Committee of the House of Commons in 1847, on which subject I have to refer your Lordship to a more detailed notice transmitted in my Despatch No. 17, of 26th January.

Expenditure.

The expenditure of 1845 was 66,726*l.*, in a great measure on account of Public Works. In 1846 it was reduced to 60,351*l.* It has this year been brought down to 50,959*l.*, from which, deducting the local revenue, 31,078*l.* leaves 19,881*l.* to be defrayed from the Parliamentary grant. It should be added, that the expenditure for Public Works, 15,180*l.* is of a temporary nature only, and being deducted from 19,881*l.*, leaves a balance of only 4701*l.* beyond the revenue.

Public Works.

Almost all these works are either completed, or in rapid progress, with the exception of a Government House not yet commenced. A good road of 24 miles now completes the circuit of the island, much of it cut through granite rocks, at a total cost of about 20,000*l*. There are military posts at an average distance of six miles from each other, and the facilities and security which all these works afford have produced a marked effect on the population of the island.

The handsome colonial church is in a state of rapid progress, as well as the public offices, intended to concentrate the principal Civil Departments, and to include the Treasury and Records. A very substantial and commodious court-house, at a cost of 5000*l*., does away with the payment of 375*l*. annual rent for a temporary building.

The usual reports from the Surveyor-General on the Public Works during 1847, and on the progress of his department, are annexed to the Blue Book.

Military Expenditure.

In the return made to me of the Military Expenditure of the last year, I am glad to see a reduction, as compared with the preceding one, of about 26,000*l*. The principal military works have been an extensive cutting for the parade ground, some considerable buildings for ordnance stores, and the commencement of a main-guard house.

Legislation.

Among the ordinances which have been enacted during the past year by the Legislative Council, the most important, perhaps, is that which extends the ordinary summary jurisdiction of the police magistrates, with reference principally to the Chinese population. This ordinance had been originally drafted (see Despatch No. 108, of 12th September, 1846), with a view to mitigate the inconveniences arising from a vacation of nearly six months between the summer and winter sessions of the Supreme Court; but even when this had been remedied, and the longest vacation reduced to three months, the peculiar habits and character of the Chinese population required that the smaller felonies, such as larcenies to a trifling amount, should be dealt with summarily by the magistrate, instead of being reserved, as in England, for a jury. With reference to the same population, accustomed universally to corporal punishment, instead of long imprisonment, it became necessary to adopt the same mode of punishment under proper limitations and safeguards as to its nature and amount. It had been found from experience that an English prison afforded them the three principal necessities of life in a degree to which many of them had been strangers, and, in fact, tempted them to commit small crimes for the sake of being imprisoned.

Both the chief magistrate and the superintendent of police have reported most favourably on the working of this ordinance in diminishing the amount of crime.

With reference to the Government of British subjects at the five ports of China, I have added to the efficacy of the criminal jurisdiction of the Consuls, by merely adopting in the Consular Ordinance No. 2, of 1847, the provisions of an order by Her Majesty in Council for the Government of British subjects in the Levant.

I have anticipated the wish of a Committee of the House of Commons on China affairs in June last, that the jurisdiction of the Consuls over civil suits should be extended beyond 500 dollars, by Consular Ordinance No. 3, of 1847, which enacts, that the Consuls, with certain assessors, shall have jurisdiction over all civil suits whatever, subject to an appeal to the Supreme Court of Hong Kong, with the further appeal to the Privy Council in all cases above 500*l*.

Population.

The population return for 1847 is beyond the amount of any former year, being 23,872, exclusive of troops. At the same time that the number of the Chinese has increased, their respectability and fixedness of residence have advanced, as proved by the increased number of dwellings, and the progress, especially, of the out-station of Aberdeen. The road now completed round the island renders them independent of water carriage, by which they were formerly exposed to robbery and piracy; something must also be attributed to the working of the improved Registry Ordinance, under which only householders are registered (instead of individuals) and made in some degree responsible for their inmates. An increase

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of population simultaneously, with a diminution of crime, must be considered as a decidedly favourable indication.

Climate.

The early panic in regard to the climate of Hong Kong, which was spread in 1843, is now assignable to causes sufficiently plain. On the termination of the war large numbers of troops were landed, labouring under disease, in a new place unprovided with quarters. Under these circumstances intemperance had also its share in aggravating the evil, which seems to be proved by the remarkable fact that the prisoners in gaol were healthy while the troops suffered so extensively. Hong Kong is certainly healthier than most parts of India, and under every circumstance it has been free from the visitations of cholera.

Education.

I have caused three Chinese schools to be selected by a Committee, of which the Colonial Chaplain was member, as the recipients of an allowance of 10 dollars a month each from the 1st January, according to your Lordship's authority conveyed in Despatch 109, of August 12. One of these will be at Victoria, and the others at the out-stations of Aberdeen and Stanley.

The Colonial Chaplain has used praiseworthy exertions towards the education of children belonging to the lower grades of the European population. He has unfortunately not met with a great deal of support from the resident Europeans, and I had the honour to enclose a representation from him upon this subject in my Despatch No. 126, of December 26.

Trade.

The European shipping arrived at Victoria during the year 1847 has been returned by the harbour master at 694 vessels and 229,465 tons, a great increase on former years. The Chinese junks have also increased considerably, having amounted to 50,058 tons, and this in spite of the interpolation in Article 13 of the Chinese copy of the Supplementary Treaty. The imports in Chinese vessels consist principally of sugar, alum, sulphur, rice, nut-oil, and salt, and in 1847 reached the amount of 498,239*l*., while the exports appear to have been principally opium and long cloths, and to have amounted to 226,130*l*.

Goods have been sold by auction to the aggregate amount of 33,354*l*., of which 23,154*l* were exempt from auction duty.

The Blue Book contains the particulars of a trade in Chinese sugar which has entirely sprung up during the past year. The total amount ascertained as shipped in English vessels has been 21,529,600*lbs.*, valued at 144,827*l*. The greatest quantity of this has been shipped for New South Wales, and the rest for England and India, with a portion for the northern port of Shanghai.

The former prevalence of piracy has been checked (as appears best proved by the increase of native trade) through the active exertions of Captain Loring, of Her Majesty's ship "Scout," by whom nearly 300 pirates were captured in the last year, and delivered over to the Chinese Government. Twelve outlaws of the same description were convicted here before the Admiralty Court in January, and four of them executed, as already reported by me to your Lordship.

I have before had occasion to state that the American whalers from the Pacific have begun to resort to this harbour for provisions and repairs, attracted by its advantages as a secure shelter, the cheapness of supplies, and the total absence of all port dues and customs. The American Consul informs me, that for these reasons he expects the numbers will increase.

Police.

The benefits of the police have been extended since the commencement of this year to the out-stations of the island. With a view to reducing the amount of crime, and rendering persons and property as safe generally as they are within the town of Victoria, police protection has been provided for at all the principal villages and stations through the colony. To carry out this measure, without loss to the Government, it was deemed just that the inhabitants should defray the expenses of the force required for their protection, and as none of the occupants of houses out of Victoria had hitherto paid any police-rate, I felt the less reluctance in requiring them to do so now. The assessors were accordingly directed, in

conformity with the provisions of Ordinance No. 2, of 1845, to assess all property out of Victoria, the rate being levied from the 1st January.

I am glad to observe from the police returns that though more persons have been apprehended during the past than during the former year the number of convictions has been smaller. This seems to argue the preventive power of the police, in fact, its most desirable function.

The superintendent of police reports that the Chinese inhabitants are becoming better acquainted with the English law and system of police, and more desirous to avail themselves of it, as robberies, however trifling in amount, are now made known, when formerly the sufferers submitted quietly. The burglaries during the year 1847, and most of the larcenies, have been committed upon the Chinese inhabitants, generally from the inefficient mode of fastening their doors and windows.

The superintendent further reports that the police service has been gradually improving, and the change made in diminishing the English and increasing the native force has proved beneficial, as the duties of a preventive system are better carried out. There is conclusive evidence that the establishment of a police at the villages round the island has been productive of the desired effect, both in carrying out municipal regulations and preventing depredations. It may, therefore, be anticipated, that the number of piracies and burglaries will diminish for the future.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) J. F. DAVIS.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

FALKLAND
ISLANDS.

(No. 6.)

No. 37.

No. 37.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor MOODY to Earl GREY, dated Government House, Stanley, Falkland Islands, February 9, 1848.

MY LORD,

(Received June 7, 1848.)

I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith the "Blue Book" of this colony, for the year ended 31st December, 1847.

In my Despatches, No. 16, dated 9th March, 1847, and No. 47, dated 30th September, 1847, I have stated at length the present state and future prospects of the islands.

For Despatch
9th March, 1847,
No. 16, vide Annual
Reports on the
Blue Books for
1846, presented to
Parliament by Her
Majesty's com-
mand, July, 1847,
p. 236.

Since the date of those Despatches, no changes have occurred in the colony, and I am unable at present to add anything of interest or importance to the information therein contained.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) R. C. MOODY.

(No. 47.)

No. 38.

No. 38.

EXTRACTS of a DESPATCH from Governor MOODY to Earl GREY, dated Government House, Stanley, Falkland Islands, September 30, 1847.

(Received February 24, 1848.)

THE observations I have the honour to submit, embrace different matters, and perhaps may go beyond what your Lordship may desire in the first instance, but, as my object is to furnish data by which your Lordship may arrive at a satisfactory conclusion with regard to future plans in the maintenance and government of the colony, I trust I may be excused.

With respect to the colony being able at any time to maintain itself, it appears to me there is nothing in the character either of its climate or soil, to prevent its not only providing the requisite supplies for the maintenance of its inhabitants, but also for the accumulation of wealth, through the ordinary operations of trade, and partly also by the means of agriculture. The first by capital

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being invested in the colony, to produce the undermentioned exports, namely:—

1. "Wool," the sheep being imported in the first instance from the main, at a cost not exceeding 12s. per head, and afterwards crossed with long woolled rams, brought from England.

2. Hides, tallow, and salted beef, from the numerous wild cattle increasing in the colony, probably at present not less than 80,000.

3. Fish-oil, taken by colonial coasters.

4. Salted fish, to the Catholic countries on the adjoining continent, from among the numerous creeks abundantly supplied in the season. And among other exports, one it appears to me would yield a large return, but it would be entirely a novel undertaking, namely "compressed peat," both charred and not charred, as fuel to those places on the main, where fuel bears a high price, and where coal is imported.*

In a Despatch, No. 5, dated 30th December, 1843, I have entered at large into this subject, and have found as yet no reason to differ from what I there laid down, except where I stated that the fuel could be supplied at 12s. per ton. I now think that it could be profitably supplied by the labour of Irish emigrants at 8s., or even 6s. per ton, in this port, three weeks sail from a market, Monte Video.

A dépôt might also be established for the supply of the ship chandlery, and other stores to ships in distress, as well as refreshment to calling ships, likely to be very numerous, when the colony is once in a state of prosperous advancement.

I have considered the foregoing in the light of commerce and trade, as they have reference only to the production of articles of export. Applying the term agriculture to the actual cultivation of the soil for the production of all the ordinary necessities of life, to be consumed on the spot, and exporting the surplus, the prospect is not quite so certain to me as the former, about which I entertain no doubt whatever.

In so serious a matter as emigration, and the investment of capital in so distant a dependency, I would wish to state nothing positively, for which there has as yet been so little experience. I would therefore observe the successful and profitable cultivation of wheat, must be well determined by successive experiments before a satisfactory opinion can be pronounced, but if I am informed aright, that by improved principles of agriculture, wheat is now profitably raised in several of the most northern counties of Scotland, (among others Caithness,) I am inclined to anticipate success here, as far as raising enough for home consumption. With respect to the successful cultivation of barley and oats, there is little doubt; under very discouraging circumstances, I have seen both succeed here. Turnips answer peculiarly well, as do also all the common vegetables; of the field-pea and bean, I am unable to give a satisfactory opinion, those in the government garden succeeded, but not in a manner to answer farm cultivation. Upon the whole, therefore, it appears to me that grazing for the production of exportable articles, and not agriculture, except to a very moderate extent, would be the best investment of capital. The former would yield an abundant remuneration, and the exchange of such articles would bring to the colony a cheap supply of those raised by agriculture, possibly cheaper from the United States than could be raised here. From thence, also, must come lumber, unless any enterprising individuals establish saw-mills in the woody region of the Straits of Magellan for which there is every facility.

Such are the capabilities of the islands. I now proceed to offer my observations as to when the colony may be expected to produce the requisite supplies of food for their own maintenance. To do this I must first take the liberty, of submitting a complete view of the past and present state of things.

In the report accompanying the Blue Book, I stated generally the arrangements hitherto adopted by Her Majesty's Government with respect to this colony. Those arrangements have consisted in furnishing and maintaining a limited Government, capable of extension with the progress of the colony, and the construction of certain necessary public works; the expense of both being defrayed by Her Majesty's Treasury.

* Either for household purposes or for steam navigation.

The Government have also made public through the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, all authentic reports respecting the capability of the colony, but have abstained from taking any direct steps emanating from themselves, for the furtherance of its colonization. Your Lordship justly deems a sufficient time to have elapsed to take into consideration the result of those arrangements, and as a consequence the alterations that such result may suggest. It does not appear to me that the past arrangements have hitherto been attended by any result whatever in England, advancing the colonization of the islands. To account for this, conjecture only can be offered; the insignificance of the place, a place but seldom heard of, contradictory reports, and the greater inducements which other colonies appear to offer to the minds of any considering the matter, probably constitute the chief reason. I think I may with much confidence assume, that no change in this respect is to be expected by a continuance of the present arrangements, however long protracted.

More attention has been paid to the subject in the provinces of the River Plate, and although the prevalent opinion there is at present very unfavourable, the greatest number of the inhabitants have come from thence; of the remainder, some have been left from ships, and but few have arrived from England.

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